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SERIALS DIVISION

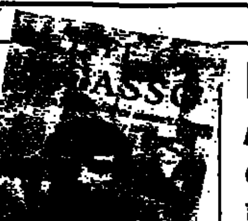
THE TIMES 35p

No. 65,735

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1996

FREE EUROSTAR RETURN TICKET
TOKEN 16, PAGE 2

BEST FOR BOOKS



George Melly on Picasso
PLUS: Oliver Sacks, Orlando Figes, Kathy Lette, PAGES 44, 45

LOOKING GREAT AT FIFTY

Goldie Hawn joins the first wives who fought back
FILMS
PAGE 41

BEST FOR JOBS

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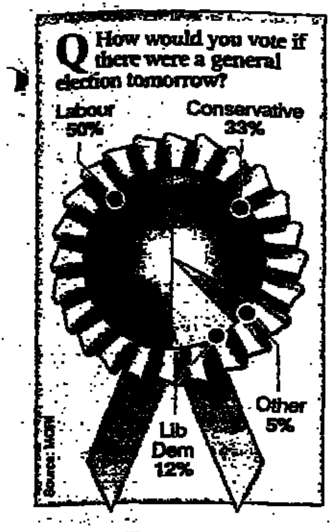
APPOINTMENTS, 26 PAGES
SECTION 3

Tory poll boost as 'feel-good' factor begins to return



By Peter Riddell

TORY support in the polls has jumped to its highest level since early 1993, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. Dissatisfaction with the Government and John Major has declined to the lowest levels since just after the last election and the public is now more optimistic about the economy.

The poll, brought forward this month because of the Budget, was undertaken last weekend and puts the Tories on 33 per cent, compared with 28 per cent two weeks ago. Support for Labour is six points down at 50 per cent, the lowest level since Tony Blair became party leader.

The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 12 per cent, reflecting the recent squeeze on their support.

This is the best news that the Tories have had for a long time. However, the current gap between the parties of 17 points is still much greater than at the same stage of previous parliaments. Five years ago, Labour was a mere two points ahead, having been on level-pegging.

There have been sharp variations in party support in recent polls. This partly reflects differences in how they are compiled. But a series of recent polls suggests that the last *MORI survey was taken at a time of* particular Labour strength and there has been a pick-up in Tory support recently.

If some of these fluctuations are ignored, there has been a gradual underlying improvement in Tory support, of about three points over the past year, and a two point decline in Labour's rating.

The Tories have been boosted by rising living standards and falling unemployment, as shown by the latest drop announced yesterday, together with a marked decline in public hostility towards the Government and Mr Major.

The MORI economic optimism index is now evenly balanced between the number expecting that the general economic condition of the country will improve and those expecting it to get worse.

The index shows little change since the last poll but compares with an average of minus 15 points at the beginning of this year. In the past, the index has only been positive for short periods.

Moreover, the indices measuring voter attitudes towards the Government and Mr Major are now at *their most favourable levels since* September 1992 when sterling was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism. The balance of the number satisfied/less dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country is now minus 47 points, compared with a range of minus 55 to 60 points in the summer. On the same basis, Mr Major's rating has improved to minus 19 points compared with minus 30 points or more in recent months. Tory supporters approve of Mr Major's performance by well over three to one.

*Tony Blair's personal rating re*mains high, at plus 21 points, though Paddy Ashdown is ahead, at plus 25 points.

MORI interviewed 1,515 adults at 152 sampling points on November 8 to 11. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (8 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refused to say (2 per cent).

British troops to join relief force in Zaire

By Michael Evans, Philip Webster and Tom Rhodes in Washington

BRITAIN is to send troops to Zaire as part of an international force to save 1.5 million refugees from starvation.

John Major spoke to President Clinton last night about the size of the effort needed after a 90-minute meeting of the Cabinet's Overseas Policy and Defence Committee agreed that an urgent response was required.

Although no decision has been made on the number of British troops to be deployed, it is expected to be a force of at least 1,000. The maximum contribution would be 3,500 troops from 5 Airborne Brigade, the rapid deployment *unit trained to go anywhere at* short notice.

The statement from Downing Street came soon after the United States, under increas*ing pressure* from Canada and France, announced the deployment of more than 3,000 American troops as part of a multinational rescue mission that could total 15,000 troops from 12 countries.

In what was described as a tentative agreement, the American soldiers would provide logistical support while securing the airport at Goma in eastern Zaire to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief to the refugees in need of food and shelter. America would send up to 1,000 ground troops to Zaire and a further 2,000 in a support capacity outside Zaire.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said: "The United States has been increasingly concerned that the humanitarian situation is deteriorating. *The US is willing in principle to participate in a limited fashion.*"

Britain's involvement came after weeks in which ministers have shown extreme reluctance to send British troops. Downing Street said that Britain would contribute "constructively" to a multinational force, provided a satisfactory plan could be worked out. The Government will discuss the scale and nature of the force with other potential contributors and there will be a crucial meeting at the United Nations in New York today.

Ministers are under no illusions about the extreme challenge of launching a military operation in Central Africa. *Downing Street said:* "It is a complex and difficult situation. It is difficult terrain, there is no clear ceasefire and very little information is available."

Senior Government sources said that ministers expected the role of the British troops to be more than just helping with food and humanitarian aid. That could mean that British troops will be involved in clearing corridors to ensure that aid reaches the refugees.

The sources said it was essential to get the nature of the mission established before Britain decided how many men to send. One possibility was to limit the force to a logistics battalion. However, with the momentum building up for a large multinational force, Britain is now expected to offer more troops.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, briefed the Cabinet committee last night on the military options.

Army chiefs *fully* realise the difficulties of entering a war zone where more than 13,000 people have been massacred in the latest upsurge in fighting and where 1.5 million Hutu refugees from Rwanda face starvation in eastern Zaire.

One Defence Ministry source said: "Fighting out *there is a way of life. It is* one of the things they do particularly well. Any operation will be terribly difficult because of the geographical position of Zaire, the lack of proper infrastructure and the onset of the rainy season."

French defied, page 19

CHRIS HARRIS

Mohamed Al Fayed wraps himself in the Union flag outside Harrods yesterday

Labour wants British bedtime for children

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR launched its debate on family life last night by calling for parents to agree on fixed bedtimes for children.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, wants par*ents and schools to participate* in a nationwide debate about when children should go to bed. He is concerned that children try to manipulate their parents by complaining that other pupils in their class are allowed to stay up later to watch television or go to parties.

If parents knew the national average for bedtimes, it would give them more authority at home, Labour sources said. Their children could not then accuse them unjustly of being too "Victorian", and parents would know when they were being more liberal than the national trend.

The initiative is part of a Labour campaign to keep *children off the streets late at* night and to stop youth hooliganism. The party has said that the roots of criminal behaviour are planted in childhood by lax parenting.

Mr Straw made clear that he thought parents would welcome a national consensus on bedtimes, but he said that he did not think politicians should impose mandatory restrictions which would in any event be impossible to enforce. "There should be much more public discussion about issues like the time children should be *in bed. It is not exactly for* politicians to tell parents what time to impose. But my experience is that parents would welcome more discussion in schools and in the media."

Speaking after a press conference on the family, he said that parenting had become a taboo subject. "It is ridiculous

Continued on page 2, col 4

JEWELLER
NATIONAL BED TIME FOR KIDS
PUGH

"Get a move on. We've got to be in bed in five minutes"

Ministers hail drop in jobless

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

SENIOR ministers last night hailed the prospect of unemployment falling below two million before the general election.

A 40,800 reduction in October's figure brought the total to 2,030,000, the lowest for more than five and a half years. Although the drop was exaggerated by the start of the new Jobseeker's Allowance, which is thought to have *delayed the counting of up to* 15,000 claims, John Major said the statistic meant that Britain was "bouncing back" and showed the benefit of not tying employers' hands with a 48-hour working week.

The row over the European Court of Justice directive intensified last night when Stephen Hughes, a Labour MEP, suggested that unlimited fines be imposed on Britain if it was not implemented.

David Davis, the Minister for Europe, said: "God help us if these people are ever allowed to run Britian again. Labour want unlimited fines on Britain today. Labour in power would mean an unlimited tax on future prosperity."

Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, said the unemployment figures were "as bogus as Tory promises on tax". The 32 changes to the way official figures were calculated had left ministers' claims "devoid of any credibility whatsoever".

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Jobless fall, page 27
Numbers game, page 31

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Pledge to fight world famine

The United Nations World Food Summit convened in Rome yesterday and determined to fight famine, halving the number of hungry and malnourished people within 20 years. *The summit is being* attended by 194 nations, but only 50 are repesented by heads of state or government ....Pages 16, 23

Lottery watchdog criticised by MPs

Peter Davies, director-general of the National Lottery watchdog, Oflot, has been given a public dressing down by MPs for his failure to keep rigorous checks on Camelot. He was accused of being "dilatory" and "*unimaginative*" *in his* approach in his control over Camelot ....Page 2

Personal pension compensation row

Three years after a review of mis-selling personal pensions began, only 1 per cent of those involved in the 500,000 most urgent cases have been offered compensation. Consumer groups expressed alarm at the delay after the details were published ....Page 27

Howard rebuffed over Al Fayeds' citizenship

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MOHAMED Al Fayed and his brother won a crucial battle in their long-running fight for British citizenship yesterday when the Court of Appeal quashed the Home Secretary's refusal to grant it.

The judges, led by the Master of the Rolls, said that Mr Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, and his brother Ali, were not treated fairly because they were given no chance to answer objections to their application.

Immediately after the ruling Mr Fayed accused the Home *Secretary of intervening* personally in the citizenship applications and of being instrumental in setting up the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry in 1987 into the House of Fraser takeover.

"Does he have a prejudice against me and is it because of his close family ties with Lonrho's former chief executive, Tiny Rowland?" He said that as a DTI minister Michael Howard had not declared that Harry Landy, his second cousin, had been on the board of a major Lonhro subsidiary. A spokesman for Mr Howard *said that as far as the allega*tions on citizenship were concerned, which were the only ones within their remit, they were were "complete nonsense".

Giving judgment yesterday Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, backed by Lord Justice Phillips, said that in the interests of fairness, the Egyptian-born Fayeds, who have lived in Britain for 30 years, should have been given a chance to meet any concerns before the final decision was made.

"Justice must not only be *done but be seen to be done in* relation to the application of the Fayeds," he said. "They have not had the fairness to which they are entitled."

The Home Secretary announced that he will appeal immediately to the House of Lords to overturn the decision. An appeal is unlikely before before next summer.

The ruling is a fresh embarrassment for Mr Howard, coming after a string of other adverse decisions in the courts. It is also politically sensitive, given that the Al Fayeds are the source of many *of current the "sleaze"* allegations and are involved in the "cash for questions" accusations surrounding former ministers Neil Hamilton and Jonathan Aitken and Parliamentary lobbyist Ian Greer.

But in a highly unusual move the judges issued a press release summarising their judgment and making clear that their ruling should not be taken as a personal attack on the Home Secretary.

The judges' majority decision (Lord Justice Kennedy dissented) "reflects no discredit *on those responsible for the* decisions under review", they said.

Mr Fayed gave out Christmas puddings as he posed for photographers at Harrods yesterday. "I *have lived here* for 30 years without incurring so much as a parking ticket," he said. "I provide worthwhile employment for 6,000 people, I pay £3 million in income tax every year and my companies contribute £25 million in tax to the national Exchequer."

Sights on revenge, page 5
Leading article, page 21

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Hot and bothered Betty adds footnote to history

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Betty Boothroyd has beautiful feet. I can reveal this, having *spent a fascinating half-hour* studying her right foot.

In two centuries of *The Times*'s publication, no description of a Speaker's foot has ever appeared *in this* newspaper. Probably no Press Gallery reporter has ever seen a Speaker's foot. There is no mention of it in *Dicey's The Law and the Constitution.* Extended glimpses afforded to this Sketch must be unprecedented *over six centuries.*

The unshoeing of Madam Speaker occurred yesterday afternoon at 3.05. But first, a word of explanation.

An unusually boring *session of Questions to* Education and Employment ministers was testing the patience of even the parliamentary clerks, one of whom was *scratching under his wig.*

Barry Sheerman (Lab, Huddersfield) was determined to be cross. Describing an answer from the junior *education minister* Eric Forth as "pathetically inadequate", he met clucks of irritation from the government benches. "*We have to say* 'pathetic' all the time this afternoon," he protested. He did not say why. The Tories were equally cross. *They faced another* debate on BSE in which Labour's Robin Cook was to taunt the Government with a wit which had even civil servants, *in their* box, trying not to giggle.

Tory ill-humour had reached its nadir when, after a fair question about educa*tion from Labour's new* recruit, the former Tory Alan Howarth, a young toff called Henry Bellingham (C. Norfolk NW) *had risen.* "If," he sneered, "the Hon Gentleman had had a more fulfilling education himself, he might not have experienced the mid-*life crisis he had this year.*"

That raised eyebrows even among Tories. Bustling hotly to her feet, Madam Speaker protested that *this was hardly* the sort of thing Hon Members cared to hear. Miss Boothroyd was educated at Dewsbury College of Commerce and Art. Mr Bellingham is an old Etonian. Readers may conclude that the score so far was Dewsbury 1, Eton 0.

But the *strain on the Dewsbury* old girl was intense. It must be hot in those tights. The gown, though becoming, is a nuisance. And the shoes (Miss Boothroyd *designed them herself*: black patent leather with enormous brooches) appear to pinch.

Add to that the frustration a *Speaker must* feel as MPs squabble away the afternoon in pointless debate, and those shoes must pinch all the harder. Miss *Boothroyd had* placed both feet on the little footstool before the Speaker's chair. She was restless, fidgety. Slowly, the right shoe slipped its *heel from under her own* and slid forward until it lay beneath her instep, her regal toes slipped loosely in, only their *tips sheathed. I held my breath. Would she?*

She grew bolder. Withdrawing the foot completely, she brushed the shoe from the footstool.

Now *exposed, Madam* Speaker's foot lay delicately on the green leather, perfectly naked beneath the television lights, hidden from the House but visible to a sketchwriter perched above.

It was a fine foot, about size 4. Some women in their *middle years* suffer from *corns* or the deformation caused by ill-fitting shoes, but not Miss Boothroyd. At Ipanema beach I have seen worse feet on *women half her age*. Each toe was perfect.

Your sketchwriter became quite transfixed, his vision focused downward, the rest of the chamber and *its graceless company fading into no more* than a rude background to this elegant foreground: Madam Speaker's footstool: *Madam Speaker's foot.*

Oflot chief 'was unimaginative'

Lottery watchdog rebuked by MPs for failing public

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

Davies: should have power to impose fines

PETER Davies, director-general *of the National Lottery* watchdog Oflot, was last night given a public dressing down by MPs, who accused him of *failing to keep rigorous checks* on Camelot, the company that runs the lottery.

He was said to have been "dilatory" and "unimaginative" in his approach to the job and that he should be "more pro-active" in his control over Camelot *to ensure* the confidence of lottery players.

There was particular concern *that Camelot was* enjoying £7 *million* in windfall profits and that the company had refused to hand over the sum for good causes.

Robert *Sheldon*, Labour chairman of the select committee on public accounts, said the committee *thought* Mr Davies's stewardship of Oflot compared unfavourably with other privatised industry regulators and that he should be "*more vigilant*".

The rebuke followed a recent official study into the running of the National Lottery which showed that only one of the 21 checks devised by Oflot to keep an eye on Camelot had been imple*mented. Alan Williams*, Labour MP for Swansea West, said the National Audit Office report exposed the "worst *administrative incompetence* of any organisation he had ever come across. Your period at Oflot has been a period of quite inadequate protection of the public interest."

Mr Davies was criticised for failing to use his powers to allow *Sir* John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, to inspect Camelot's accounts. The National Audit Office (NAO) had asked Camelot if it could inspect the books but had been refused. Mr Sheldon *said Oflot had the* power to send any auditor in to check on Camelot and wanted to know why Mr *Davies had refused to inter*vene to assist the NAO.

Mr Davies said lawyers had advised him against this. But twice *this year he had picked* up on Camelot for failing to meet its targets in expanding the number of lottery retail *outlets. Camelot was 300 short* in March and 700 in June.

Mr Davies said if he had the power he would have fined the *company and demanded com*pensation payment to good causes for the shortfall. He has informed Virginia *Bottomley, the National Heri*tage Secretary, that he believes he should be given the power to fine and impose penalties.

Charles Wardle, *Conserva*tive MP for Bexhill and Battle, told Mr Davies that he should behave more like a director-general *and less like an audi*tor. The regulator said he was aware of his public role and that he had even considered *going to court to see if a judge* would order compensation from Camelot, but lawyers had advised against.

*On Camelot's profits, how*ever, MPs felt Mr Davies should have insisted when granting an operating licence *that it should not* benefit from such windfall payments. Camelot has £6 million in interest generated on a prize shortfall of £135 *million. It has also* earned £831,000 in interest from advance subscriptions and £420,000 in interest on money collected from retailers selling lottery tickets.

Punters cannot defy luck of lottery draw

PUNTERS who agonise over what numbers to choose in the National *Lottery* are wast*ing their time*. The draw is entirely random and unpredictable, statisticians said yesterday (Carol Midgley writes).

The Royal Statistical Society dismissed claims that organised "systems" or computer programmes could increase gamblers' chances of winning. Dr John Haigh, of Sussex University, said the numbers already drawn were *no guide to the future — even* though some had come up more often than others.

The lottery operator, Camelot, which agrees that the draw is random, releases little information on which numbers people choose. *Dr* Haigh said it was likely that 7, 11 and 3 would be chosen most often, and 40, 39 and 48 *least often*. Gamblers have "lucky" numbers and use geometric patterns. On 18 occasions, no ticket won the jackpot: on another, 133 *people shared the jackpot.*

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See page 28 for further details

BARRY GREENWOOD

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, is advocating a standard British bedtime for children

Parents must take responsibility for lights-out rules, says head

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS must be left to make bedtime rules for their own children, the headmaster of Jack Straw's old school said yesterday. *Bedtime for boarders at Brent*wood School in Essex requires lights out by 9.30pm for those between 12 and 14, and 10.30 for those between 15 and 16. *Sixth formers are asked to be in their* rooms and be quiet by 11pm.

John Kelsall, the headmaster, said: "I think this is quite a sensible regime and we have *very few problems with it. It is* made clear what the regulations are when they arrive and pupils accept it. After a busy day they are pretty tired anyway."

He has given advice to parents on the times youngsters' parties should end but thought schools were being asked to shoulder *too* much parental responsibility by politicians.

"I feel quite strongly you cannot ask schools to do everything and it seems that is happening at the moment. We are to *blame for* all the ills in the world but frankly day pupils spend two-thirds of their time at home with their parents and it is up to the parents to make their own rules. *I do not offer guidelines.*"

He added: "Jack Straw was a boarder and does stay in touch with his old school. But he has not phoned for advice *on this one.*"

However, boarding school heads do find themselves asked for advice by parents of day pupils to settle arguments about *early nights.* Dr Thomas Stuttaford, *The Times* doctor, said parents should have broad bands of bedtimes depending on age but not rigid *rules. He said*: "There are three advan*tages to* getting children to bed early. First, when the child is in bed and asleep, it produces more growth hormone, which is essential not just for growth but for overall good health, so there are physical advantages to getting your full good night's sleep.

"Secondly, the child is not tired the next day, and thirdly, *it gives the parents* a bit of time to chat between themselves."

The view from state schools was that guidelines would be impossible to set or enforce. *Chris Davis*, chairman of the National Association for Primary Education, said he did not believe rigid guidelines could be set. "We do not have any guidelines," he said. "Children's needs for sleep are so varied that recommendations are difficult."

British standard bedtime wanted

Continued from page 1

that more information is available about pet and car care, and about sexual relationships, *than about bringing up* children," he said. "While learner drivers require a *Highway Code* and a course of *tuition before they are let loose* on the road, new parents are left to get through by a combination of instinct, advice, reading and family support."

Labour called this year for a *curfew for children younger* than ten. Mr Straw, who was one of five children brought up in Essex, said he had been *made to go to* bed at 8pm when he was ten, but used to listen to *Hancock's Half Hour* under the covers until 8.30. He refused *to say when his child*ren, Charlotte, 14, and William, ten, go to bed, but said they complained that he was too draconian.

Janet Anderson, Labour's *spokesman on women, speak*ing after the launch of Labour's 27-page document, *Parenting*, said: "Parents want *guidance on issues like* bedtime. They do not want to be preached at, but they want advice. My family was strict about bedtimes and we were not allowed to play outside on Sundays. My three children are in their teens and make *their own decisions now.*"

Labour's document cites *studies showing* that parental indifference and neglect, conflict between parent and child, and deviant parental behav*iour are directly* linked to teenage delinquent behaviour. It suggests the development of parenting programmes with *local authorities, a national* telephone information service for parents and the use of the child benefit system and the *NHS to provide parents with* more information.

Dicks is dismissed in dispute over handgun ban

BY JILL SHERMAN

THE row over the proposed partial ban on handguns escalated yesterday when an MP was sacked as a parliamentary aide after insisting he would vote against the Government.

The move came as John Major agreed to meet six parents of Dunblane victims who want a total ban *on* handguns today to listen to their demands for a free vote on the issue. A spokesman played down any possibility that the Prime Minister would *change his mind.*

Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, is one of a handful of MPs who have threatened to support that *call when the issue is* debated in the Commons on Monday during its committee stage. Robert Hughes, Conservative *MP for Harrow West, who is also campaigning* for a free vote, has tabled an amendment calling for a total ban, which has Labour support. *The Government is also still* facing trouble from *the pro-shooting* lobby, which wants higher compensation than the improved cash offer announced on Tuesday.

Mr Dicks, who was *Parliamentary* Private Secretary to John Watts, a Transport Minister, claimed that his fate was sealed after he signed a *petition by Dunblane campaigners* for a free vote on guns. He also abstained in Tuesday night's vote on the Second Reading of the Bill that proposes a ban *on all handguns above* 0.22 calibre.

At yesterday's morning meeting with ministers, Mr Dicks was warned that if he intended to continue his campaign and vote against the Government on Monday, he would be sacked. He refused to change his mind and so was dismissed by Mr Watts.

Mr Dicks said afterwards: "I have no regrets: first Hungerford and then Dunblane — how many more people have to die before effective action is taken to deny private ownership of handguns and other weapons?"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stalker is ordered to pay £5,000 to lecturer

A woman student who stalked a lecturer for two years was ordered yesterday to pay him £5,000 damages and not to go *within 200 yards of his home* (Richard Duce writes).

Judge Thompson, QC, told the High Court in London that he had heard a "catalogue of *complaints*" *from* Dr Robert Fine. The reader in sociology at Warwick University had been constantly harassed and followed by Eileen McLardy, 50, and could no longer enjoy his home, his job, go swimming or walk his dog.

Mrs McLardy, 50, had said that all the incidents were coincidences and that Dr Fine had harassed her, but the judge said he unhesitatingly preferred Dr Fine's evidence.

Hamilton victory

Neil Hamilton, the Tory MP at the heart of the cash-for-questions affair, has had a complaint about a *Guardian* poster campaign upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority. The poster, "Cash for answers: 45p", *showed* his photograph above the line "A Liar and A Cheat".

Poll tax damages

An anti-poll tax demonstrator has won £30,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police in a settlement over false imprisonment *and malicious* prosecution allegations. Marcus Roskilly, 25, an unemployed chef originally from Hillhead, Glasgow, also won costs, the High Court was told.

Fighting fund

The British Field Sports Society is to raise £1 million to fight any move by the Labour Party to ban hunting with hounds. Charles Goodson-Wickes, chairman of the society and a Tory MP, *said*: "*The society is* totally committed to defeating every attack on well-regulated country sports."

Idol honoured

Vivien Leigh became the first screen idol to be honoured with an English Heritage plaque, which was unveiled *outside her former flat at* 54 Eaton Square, London. Stars including Sir John Mills, Dame Diana Rigg and Vanessa Redgrave *paid* tribute to her beauty.

Son's cliff death

Michael Sexton, 31, whose *father David is an* England youth football coach, died instantly when he drove over a cliff, a Folkestone inquest was told. Mr Sexton senior had just tried to talk Michael, who had a personality disorder, out of suicide. The hearing was adjourned until *next* month.

A day to die

A soldier who fought *in* both world wars died aged 102 at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Sep Dixon, of Thornaby-on-Tees, Co Durham, joined the army aged 15. Jack Featherstone, his nephew, *said*: "It was almost as if he was holding on.

Checks for sale

Tartan trousers believed to have been worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie are expected to fetch more than £30,000 when they are sold by Christie's in London on Tuesday. *The red* and green chequered trews are one of only three known surviving pairs of this type, with feet like a pair of tights.

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Jury hears of 'ferocious murder'

Husband tells of his fight to keep beaten wife alive

By Lin Jenkins

THE husband of a woman who died after a ferocious beating in an Oxfordshire beauty spot recalled yesterday how he tried to keep her alive by asking her simple questions about their children.

Jonathan Thompson, 31, told the jury at Oxford Crown Court that he had run to where a neighbour had found his wife, Vikki, bleeding and bludgeoned. "I asked her what our children's names were. I asked her what our son's name was and she said 'Matthew'.

"I asked her our daughter's name and she said 'I don't know.' I kept asking her again and again 'What happened?'.

"She seemed to be trying to tell me something. I put my ear up to her mouth desperately trying to hear what she was saying and she said something like, 'It's twenty past five.' It did not make any sense to me," he told the jury.

Mrs Thompson, 30, of Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, died six days later from multiple fractures of the skull without regaining consciousness. Mark Weston, 21, an odd-job man from the same village, denies murdering her on the Oxfordshire Way in the afternoon of August 12 last year.

Mr Thompson, whose son is now nine and daughter Jenny six, said it had been an ordinary family Saturday when his wife went to her part-time job in The Lamb pub in the neighbouring village Shipton-under-Wychwood.

When their Sheltie bitch, Daisy, returned alone he was not alarmed. "I assumed she was just around the corner. You have to imagine the peace and tranquility of the village, the safeness we felt," he said.

However, when Matthew voiced his concern, Mr Thompson, a computer salesman, put the children in the car and went to look for her. He repeatedly returned home to see if she was there. When she was not he enlisted the help of neighbours and friends, left her a note and took his mobile phone with him so that he could be contacted.

"I was pretty panicked about where she was. It was clear there was something wrong and I was worried," he said. When Carolyn Timms, a neighbour, found Mrs Thompson's bracelet with blood on it discarded on the footpath, the police were called and the search widened.

Mrs Thompson, who was due to take up a place at Oxford Brookes University, to study for a degree in mathematics and computing, was fatally attacked the day after the celebration for her ninth wedding anniversary.

Nicholas Browne, QC, for the prosecution, said she was murdered when she came across Mr Weston, who described himself as a loner, in Shipton Lane, part of the Oxfordshire Way. "In that secluded pathway something happened. We may never know precisely what. Some words must have been spoken at the start between Vikki Thompson and Mark Weston when, in an impulsive, sudden and ferocious attack, Mark Weston lost his temper with her."

He hit her repeatedly with a rock or stone. "She screamed for about 30 to 45 seconds and was then battered and beaten with the object further to her face and head. She was knocked unconcious in the first violent attack," Mr Browne said.

Mr Weston dragged her body from the path, lifted her over a barbed wire fence, dragged her 40 yards across a field and over another barbed wire fence, dumping her at the foot of a steep railway embankment, he said.

She must have regained consciousness and was again subjected to a ferocious attack. "He must have attacked her again, battering her head against rocks or stones.

"Her injuries were quite appalling, particularly to the face and to the head, but all of her body and her back and her legs." He said Mr Weston, who had been seen staring at Mrs Thompson's house a few days earlier, escaped across the railway line leaving some "very incriminating footprints" in the field.

The trial continues.

Jonathan Thompson and his wife, Vikki: "She seemed to be trying to tell me something," he said

Peter Baker yesterday: he drank a bottle of wine a day on a trip to Monte Carlo

Bottle of wine a day 'is bad for business'

By Adrian Lee

IT WAS entirely proper for an executive who binged on a bottle of wine a day during a business trip to be refused a new job, a former physician to the Queen told a court yesterday. One might expect that level on New Year's Eve, or at a wild party, but it was far too much for a professional making important decisions, said Sir Anthony Dawson, who held the post at Buckingham Palace from 1982 to 1993.

Giving expert evidence on behalf of Dr Georges Kaye, who is being sued by Peter Baker over a company medical examination conducted in 1991, Sir Anthony said the results of blood tests pointed strongly to alcohol abuse. Mr Baker, 53, of Bookham, Surrey, has admitted drinking a bottle of wine a day for a week at a festival in Monte Carlo shortly before the examination. He is claiming damages for alleged breach of care after losing the chance of a £45,000 job as head of international sales for NBC Europe.

Sir Anthony said that, for a businessman, the amount of alcohol consumed was excessive and would alter his ability to make "good intellectual judgements". Sir Anthony, who has a Harley Street practice, is chairman of council of the British Heart Foundation. He accepted that Mr Baker might not have been at risk of long-term liver damage. But he said Dr Kaye had been right to recommend that he should not be employed as head of international sales. Mr Baker might not drink a large amount every time, but "would be unpredictable on other occasions when travelling".

Sir Anthony added: "Much has been made about New Year's Eve and wild parties and changes in liver function. That's the sort of level we are talking about." Blood tests on Mr Baker had shown abnormalities which would have required more than just a week's heavy drinking, he said.

The case continues.

Policeman accused of felling footballer

By A Staff Reporter

A WATFORD footballer was struck by a policeman as he congratulated team-mates on their second-round Coca-Cola Cup win, a court was told yesterday. The officer was said to have mistaken him for an overexcited fan attacking a player.

Watford defeated Bournemouth during a penalty shoot-out at the Dorset club's ground in October last year. Kevin Phillips, a centre forward who was not playing because of injury, ran on to the pitch to celebrate with fellow players. But Acting Inspector John Green, in charge of match security, allegedly hit him with a truncheon and Phillips fell to his knees.

Michael Spong, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Wimborne, Dorset, that the attack was "unnecessary, unwarranted and unprovoked". Mr Green, of Bournemouth, denies two charges of common assault.

Mr Spong said Phillips "playfully jumped on the back of one player and went to embrace another. Then he and others turned to go back to the players entrance at the side of the pitch.

"It was at this point it is alleged Acting Inspector Green approached Mr Phillips from behind and proceeded to hit him on his left shoulder."

Phillips, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, said: "We started to walk towards the tunnel. That was when I felt a blow to my left shoulder. I felt instant pain and turned around to see a police officer standing in front of me with his truncheon out. I asked, 'What are you doing? I'm one of the players.' He responded by saying, 'I don't care, get off the pitch.'

"My manager, Glenn Roeder, charged in front, asking what the officer was doing and saying 'He's one of my players.' "

Phillips, who had been wearing his team's blue tracksuit and anorak, agreed under cross-examination that he might have looked like a Watford fan as he joined the celebrations.

The case continues.

Labour leader forgoes £60,000 chance to become Baron Blair of Blair

By Damian Whitworth

NEW Labour, old title. The Leader of the Opposition has been presented with a once-in-a-millennium opportunity to acquire the ancient title of Baron Blair of Blair — and still remain committed to abolishing the rights of hereditary peers to sit in the House of Lords.

The Scottish barony of Blair, dating from the middle of the 12th century, is to be sold to the highest bidder at auction. The Borwick family, of Blair House in Dalry, Ayrshire, which owns the title, is now so distantly related to the Blair line that it has decided to sell.

The new owner would receive nothing more than the title itself, but Manorial Auctioneers hope to raise £60,000 at the sale next month. The title is being sold by Veronica Borwick, whose late husband, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Borwick, was only distantly related to a branch of the Blair dynasty, which died out earlier this century. "We are only selling because it is obsolete really," Mrs Borwick said. "The last Miss Blair never married and died childless, so the title came to my husband's family. But my sons were killed in a car crash."

She admitted that the prospect of a Prime Minister called Blair made this a good time to sell and hoped that the Labour leader, or a wealthy benefactor on his behalf, might stump up for the title.

Mr Blair's office was quick to dismiss such talk. "The only title that Tony Blair is after is not one you have to pay for," it said. Neither did any of Labour's wealthy supporters appear ready last night to snap up the title as an amusing Christmas present for him. "Tony Blair is a sensible man and I'm sure he's not in the slightest bit interested," the broadcaster Melvyn Bragg said. The prospect of Baron Bragg of Blair was also unappealing.

Mrs Borwick said she would welcome any new purchaser to Blair House and take them on a guided tour of the gardens, known as Blair Policies. "I'd welcome Tony Blair in and give him a cup of tea," she said. "I have the Blair Society of North America over here every now and again. They are very clannish."

Blair House nestles in the valley of Dalry, a name which derives from the Gaelic Dail-righ, meaning King's Valley. The barony was originally granted by King William of the Scots to Jean François in about 1150. Jean's son changed his name to Blair and is believed to have married one of the daughters of King John. His descendants fought with William Wallace and then Robert Bruce. The subsequent history of the family was colourful and included a murky period in the 16th century when residents of the estate were accused of witchcraft. In 1847 the income of the barony was £2,200, but the new owner will have to aspire to social rather than pecuniary advancement.

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Appeal Court turns down claim on HIV letter compensation

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

MORE than one hundred women who claim they were traumatised by letters informing them they had been treated by a HIV-positive health worker had their hopes of compensation dashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The 114 women were among 900 patients in the Greater Manchester area treated by the health worker, who worked at different times in the obstetrics departments of Trafford General Hospital and Tameside General Hospital before the risk was discovered. Nine of the women, who cannot be identified, brought a test case against the authorities in January last year and High Court judge Mr Justice French ruled the health authorities had acted negligently in informing the patients by letter.

His decision paved the way for all 114 to seek compensation for nervous shock. But yesterday the test cases were struck out when the Court of Appeal judges reversed Mr Justice French's decision, and ruled that the health authorities had behaved responsibly.

The ruling was welcomed by lawyers for the health authorities involved as sending out a signal that the courts are taking a tougher line over what some see as increasingly bizarre claims. Sheila Bennett, a partner with Hempsons, said: "This was a very strong judgment from Lord Justice Brooke and the the first time the courts have put their views quite so bluntly.

"It appears they are getting little bit tired of what are almost ambulance-chasing claims. That's how we interpret the judgment."

When in March 1991 Tameside and Glossop Health Authority and Trafford Health Authority discovered the condition of the health worker, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, they wrote to all but the most 'vulnerable' patients telling them of the risk and offering HIV testing and counselling.

Of the 900, none has tested positive for HIV but 114 issued writs against the authorities claiming they were traumatised by the letters and should have been told of the risk they had been exposed to face-to-face.

Allowing the authorities' appeal, Lord Justice Kennedy said: "The judge found the best way of informing the patients was face-to-face and informing by letter carried a considerable risk some individuals might suffer psychiatric injury.

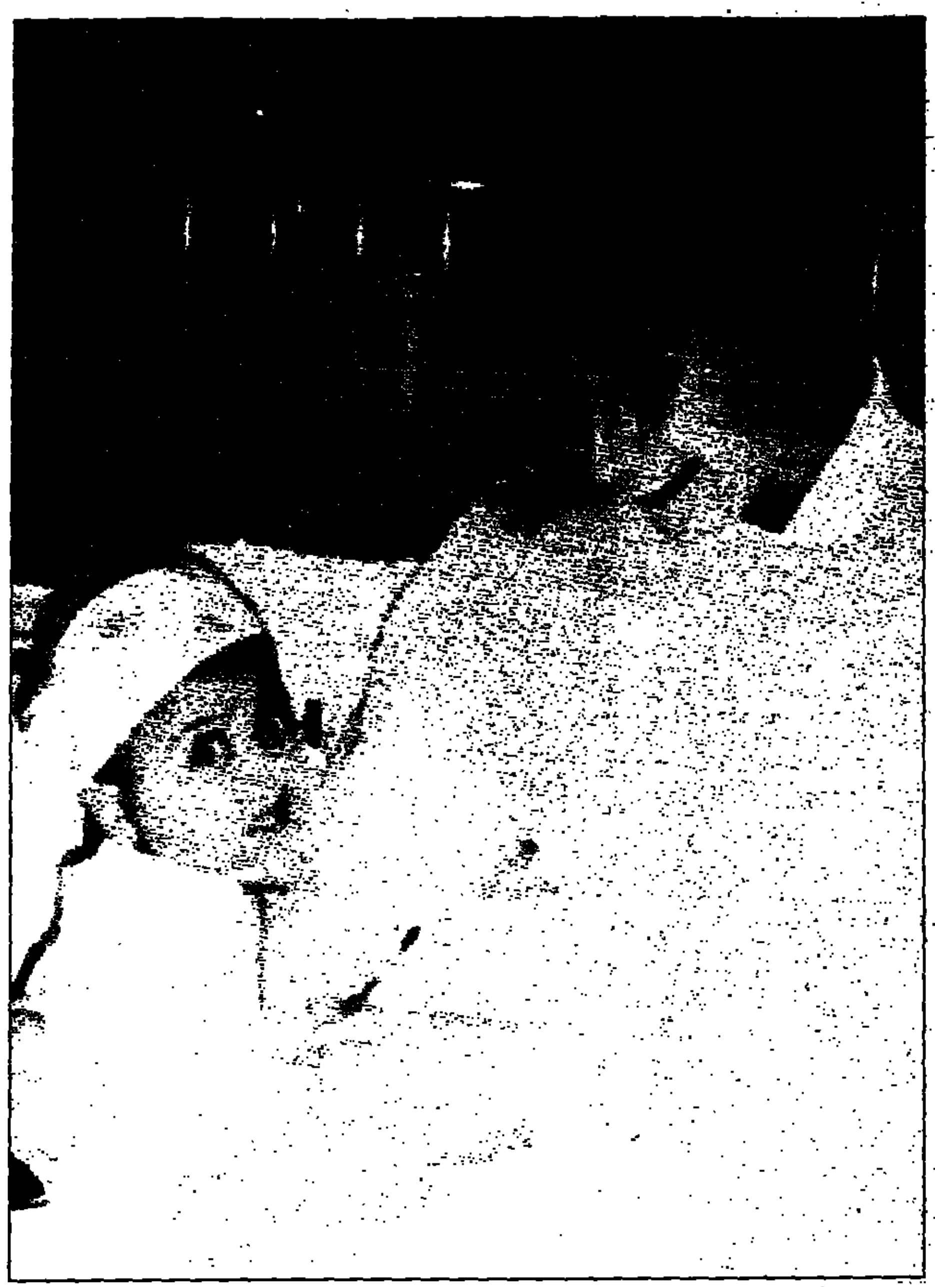
"In my judgment the question was not whether in an ideal world it was better to inform individual patients face-to-face but whether, in all the circumstances, the health authorities were negligent in taking the procedure they did. It is my view that the health authorities concerned behaved in a responsible way."

Lord Justice Brooke commented: "The judge was wrong to hold the authorities negligent because they did not use the best method. There was simply no adequate well of professional experience on which the courts could draw in this case."

Lord Justice Nourse said: "The only conclusion that can be reasonably drawn was that the authorities were not negligent in behaving as they did."

Counsel for the health authorities, Keith Armitage, QC, earlier urged the Appeal Court to overturn Mr Justice French's decision as against the weight of the evidence.

He said of the patients' claims: "It is likely that the patients have been advised that they have no redress for the risk of exposure. They were reduced to complaining about the method of communicating."



Karen McCoy with a patient at the King Fahd Hospital in Riyadh

Nurse killed in Indian air crash loved to travel

By Stephen Farrell

KAREN McCOY, the British children's nurse killed in the Indian mid-air collision, was described by her family yesterday as an adventurer who enjoyed travelling the world. Miss McCoy, 26, a passenger on the Saudia Boeing 747, was flying from India back to Saudi Arabia, where she worked at the King Fahd Hospital in Riyadh.

A few weeks ago she wrote to her family in Northfield, Birmingham, saying she was looking forward to river rafting in Nepal on a holiday from her first job abroad. Her father, Michael, 55, and stepmother, Enid, 63, admitted they feared the worst even before police arrived at their home on Tuesday night. "When I saw it on the news, I just knew that she was on board," said Mr McCoy.

Mrs McCoy, who is also a nurse, said that her stepdaughter had previously visited Greece, Turkey and Spain and planned to stay a further year in Saudi Arabia before moving on to New Zealand. "We are just devastated by the loss of our lovely daughter. She was very good at her job and very caring. She was full of fun, had a good sense of humour and loved life and parties," she said.

"The British consuls don't know when they will be able to tell us that Karen is definitely dead, but we know. She was on the passenger list and had gone through customs and it would take an absolute miracle for her to have not been on board. At least we know that she lived life to the full and had been doing what she wanted."

She said that her stepdaughter followed her into the profession after leaving school. She trained at Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth hospitals then moved to Birmingham Children's Hospital before taking up a job at the paediatric intensive care unit in Riyadh 13 months ago. In the letter home she told her parents of her sadness at the death of one of her young patients, named Abdullah.

Former colleagues at Birmingham Children's Hospital described Miss McCoy as reliable and popular. Trudy Horton, 32, a staff nurse, said: "She was always one for having a good laugh and a good time."

Miss McCoy's brother Robert, a soldier with the Royal Logistics Corps in Dülmen, northern Germany, was due home yesterday on compassionate leave.

Indian disaster, page 18

Driver rammed by M66 robbers

By Paul Wilkinson

AN ELDERLY woman was recovering in hospital last night after two youths rammed her car and robbed her. The woman, 73, suffered a broken nose, bruising and a cut face which needed stitching when she tried to stop the thieves driving off.

Police said she was lucky not to have been more seriously hurt, as another vehicle was accelerating along the slip-road at the moment she was thrown clear. The incident happened on Tuesday night as she was driving on to the M66 near Bury, in Greater Manchester. She was returning home to Liverpool after a visit to her daughter.

Last night, she said: "I'm only sorry I didn't belt them."

The woman who asked only to be identified as Anne, was returning at 9.40pm from her weekly trip to see her daughter Sarah when her car was bumped from behind by two 18-year-olds driving a small orange car. "I pulled over to check the damage and suddenly there were two young men pressing their faces against the window," she said, speaking from her hospital bed in Merseyside. When she got out to examine the bumper, one of the men stole her handbag from the passenger seat, containing more than £80 cash, she said.

"I realise now that they deliberately bumped my car. I ran and got hold of their car door to try and wrench it off, but of course I couldn't. The driver then put his foot down and I was dragged towards the motorway."

The robbers sped off, leaving her in the road, bleeding, with facial injuries and cuts to her knees and elbows. A passer-by drove her back to her daughter, a doctor, who gave her a dozen stitches in her nose and face.

Yesterday Anne said: "I'm sorry I didn't have the strength to attack them back. I would say to them, they're going to grow old one day and God help them if it happens to them."

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Appeal against refusal of British citizenship is latest in a string of clashes with the establishment

Al Fayed set sights on revenge after takeover report

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

MOHAMED Al Fayed, who once courted Margaret Thatcher and the Tory leadership with an open cheque book, is now intent on inflicting revenge on the establishment figures whose approval he so desperately craved.

The Tories were to learn to their cost that Mr Al Fayed expected his generosity to be reciprocated after donating £250,000 before the 1987 general election.

When John Major refused to rescind the damning Department of Trade and Industry report into Mr Al Fayed's takeover of the House of Fraser, the die was cast. For the past two years Mr Al Fayed has maintained a stream of allegations which have wounded the Government and caused two ministers to resign over the cash-for-questions affair.

But in January 1985, one year after acquiring the ownership of Harrods, it all seemed different. Mr Al Fayed took tea with Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street with the Sultan of Brunei, reputedly the world's richest man. Mr Al Fayed, 63, brought up in Alexandria, thought he had entered the priviliged inner circle. Sterling was under pressure on the foreign exchanges. The sultan, according to Mr Al Fayed's associates, was coaxed during the course of the conversation by a persuasive Prime Minister not to convert billions of pounds into dollars to prevent a devastating run on the pound. Mrs Thatcher sent Mr Al Fayed a letter of gratitude.

Mr Al Fayed was persuaded by his friend Lord McAlpine of West Green, the Tory treasurer, to make a donation to the Conservative Party. Now he had become the owner of the world's most famous store it seemed the right thing to do. He wrote a cheque for £250,000.

But in April 1987, despite his protests, the Department of Trade and Industry ordered an inquiry into his acquisition of the House of Fraser. Mr Al Fayed felt betrayed. The DTI decision began the slow transformation from Tory acolyte to shrill whistle-blower on alleged corruption in high places.

But publicly, at least, Mr Al Fayed was still assiduously courting favours. Invitations were issued to MPs and journalists to be his guest at the Ritz in Paris. He always took the precaution of keeping receipts from his guests room accounts in case they were later to prove valuable.

The gentrification of the Egyptian businessman continued. A Scottish Highlands castle in 30,000 acres of grounds was acquired. Shooting parties were regular fixtures. There is an estate in Surrey, countless royal warrants, a yacht, a jet and a helicopter, which have been put at the disposal of his influential friends.

He has nurtured and restored British institutions. When John Paul Getty bid £1 million for the *Three Graces*, Mr Al Fayed put up £7.8 million to keep it in Britain. He made a donation to the restoration fund of Hampton Court Palace. When it was completed he handed a 1634 painting by Paul Moreelse to the Queen.

His sponsorship of the Royal Windsor Horse Show brought him into contact with the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. He was in his element. The Royal Marsden and Great Ormond Street hospital have received millions of pounds. Mr Al Fayed, a gifted self-publicist, carries out much of his charitable work away from the glare of publicity. He resurrected *Punch*, a veritable British publications, and acquired *Viva!* a national radio station.

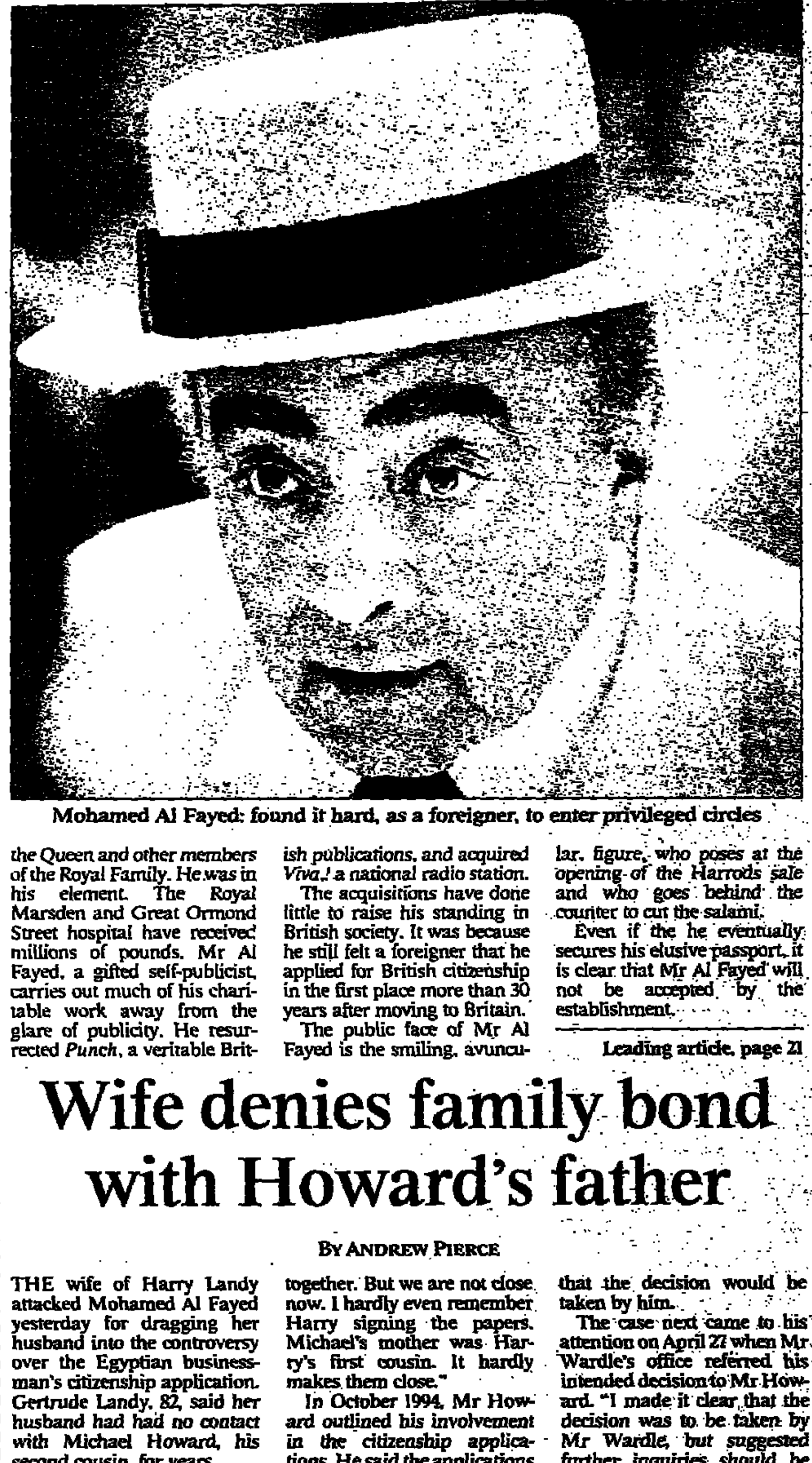
The acquisitions have done little to raise his standing in British society. It was because he still felt a foreigner that he applied for British citizenship in the first place more than 30 years after moving to Britain.

The public face of Mr Al Fayed is the smiling, avuncular, figure, who poses at the opening of the Harrods sale and who goes behind the counter to cut the salami.

Even if the he eventually secures his elusive passport, it is clear that Mr Al Fayed will not be accepted by the establishment.

Leading article, page 21

NICK ROGERS



Mohamed Al Fayed: found it hard, as a foreigner, to enter privileged circles

Lords must rule on question of natural justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Fayed brothers' battle for citizenship is to be decided by the House of Lords after the Court of Appeal yesterday created what the Home Secretary's lawyers called a "freestanding right to natural justice".

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Phillips quashed Michael Howard's refusal to grant the Egyptian-born brothers citizenship, saying that Mohamed Al Fayed and his brother, Ali, respectively chairman and deputy chairman of Harrods, had not been treated fairly because they had been given no chance to answer objections to their application. In the interests of fairness, the brothers, who have lived in Britain for 30 years, should have been given that opportunity before the final decision was made, Lord Woolf said.

"Justice must not only be done but be seen to be done in relation to the application of the Fayeds," Lord Woolf said. "They have not had the fairness to which they are entitled and the rule of law must be upheld."

The Home Secretary announced an appeal. But the House of Lords will be deciding an issue which goes far wider than the personal circumstances of the Fayed brothers: how far procedures for British citizenship under the British Nationality Act 1981 should pay regard to the concept of natural justice.

If upheld, yesterday's ruling would mean that applicants for citizenship would have to have the chance to answer any objections before a final decision is made.

Stuart Catchpole, for Mr Howard, said that the court majority had held there was "a freestanding right to natural justice which can only be excluded by express words in a statute. In the Secretary of State's submission, that is a new approach that is worthy of debate in the House of Lords."

Giving judgment, Lord Woolf said that the refusal in February 1995 of the brothers' application was damagi and because of their "hi public profile" had particul significance.

"The damage is great because it is not in dispute th they comply with the form requirements, other than th of good character, the re vance of which to the refusal not known."

The case turned on the leg construction of the Brit Nationality Act 1981. The A specifically relieves the Hor Secretary of any obligation give reasons for a refusal citizenship, and protects h decisions from appeal review.

But Lord Woolf said th that did not relieve the Sec tary of State from an oblig tion to be fair by giving applicant notice of facto weighing against him, so could address them.

If that were not the case minister would be able to unfairly and decide a pers lawfully could be refused c zenship, but the courts wou be unable to do anythi about it, he said.

Lord Woolf said that neith of the brothers had ever be informed of what were aspects of their applicatio which gave rise to difficult or reservations. They we merely informed that "aft careful consideration, your a plication has been refused".

In a dissenting judgme Lord Justice Kennedy agre with Stephen Richards, cou sel for Mr Howard, that it w within the Home Secretar discretion to refuse to gi reasons when rejecting application for naturalisatio

He said the Secretary State "when called upon exercise his discretion must relieved not only of any oblig tion to give reasons at the tin of or immediately after makes his decision, but also any duty to indicate to applicant at any earl stage why he is minded refuse".

Echoing Mr Richards's a gument, Lord Justice Kenne asked why, if Parliament h intended otherwise, the did not expressly say so.

Wife denies family bond with Howard's father

By Andrew Pierce

THE wife of Harry Landy attacked Mohamed Al Fayed yesterday for dragging her husband into the controversy over the Egyptian businessman's citizenship application. Gertrude Landy, 82, said her husband had had no contact with Michael Howard, his second cousin, for years.

Mr Al Fayed claimed yesterday that Mr Howard, who was a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry when it announced an inquiry into the House of Fraser in April 1987, had failed to declare the family interest.

However, Mrs Landy said: "They have nothing in common. If they met they would have nothing to say to each other. They don't speak on the telephone. They have had no contact for years."

But according to Mr Al Fayed they were not just distant relatives, there was a blood debt. Mr Landy had sponsored the naturalisation application for the Home Secretary's father, Bernat Hecht, one of thousands of Jews who fled to Britain from Romania at the outbreak of the war. Mr Howard's grandfather perished in the concentration camps.

Mr Al Fayed also alleged that Mr Howard, as Home Secretary, had personally intervened three times in his citizenship application. But this has been denied by Mr Howard.

Mr Landy, the former director of London City & Westcliff Properties, a subsidiary of Lonrho, chaired by Mr Al Fayed's sworn business rival Tiny Rowland, introduced the Home Secretary's parents.

They lived in a small Jewish community in Llanelli. But Mr Landy left in 1935 before Mr Howard was born. Mr Howard's father was naturalised as a British citizen in December 1947 and took an oath of allegiance in Llanelli in January 1948. Hecht was changed to Howard.

But Mrs Landy said: "My husband is ill, having suffered a stroke, otherwise he could speak for himself. But of course he would have signed the naturalisation application.

"We were close then. It was a small Jewish community. Nobody had much. We pulled together. But we are not close now. I hardly even remember Harry signing the papers. Michael's mother was Harry's first cousin. It hardly makes them close."

In October 1994, Mr Howard outlined his involvement in the citizenship applications. He said the applications of Ali Fayed, Mohamed's brother, had been referred to him on January 13, 1994, by the office of Charles Wardle, then Immigration Minister. Mr Howard saw Mr Wardle on January 21 and confirmed that the decision would be taken by him.

The case next came to his attention on April 27 when Mr Wardle's office referred his intended decision to Mr Howard. "I made it clear that the decision was to be taken by Mr Wardle, but suggested further inquiries should be made before a final decision was reached," Mr Howard said in October 1994.

The decision was eventually taken by Nicholas Baker, who replaced Mr Wardle at the Home Office.

CORRECTION

There are eight articles on social policy in the Treaty of Rome, not 80 as stated due to a transmission error in an article yesterday.

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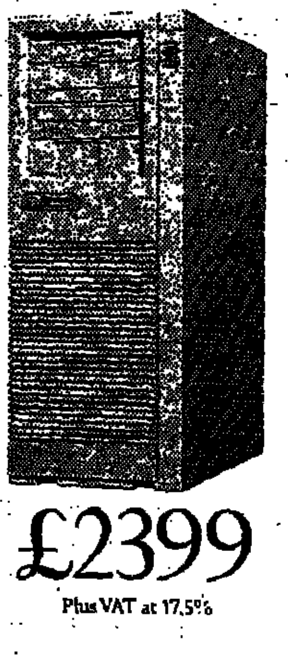

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US program aims to follow chess example

Computer prepares to trump bridge players

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

BRIDGE players could soon be *suffering the same humiliations* as chess masters, an American scientist has claimed. Bridge-playing computers, long derided as inept, could soon be breathing down their necks.

Matthew Ginsberg, of the *University of Oregon, told New Scientist* that bridge programs would compare with the best human players in a couple of years. That would certainly be dramatic progress, because up to now they have been pretty useless, ac*cording to Robert Sheehan, The Times* Bridge Correspondent. He says that programs designed to teach people how to play a hand at bridge are helpful, but programs that attempt to play the game are not much good.

The problem is that bridge is a game of incomplete information. Unlike chess, where the position of all the pieces is plain, in bridge you have to guess what cards your opponents hold. To play bridge requires working out a plan in advance, while chess can be played by looking forward a few moves at a time.

In addition, Mr Sheehan said, much more effort has been *put into chess programs* because it has been used as a testbed for strategies in artificial intelligence. No similar investment in manpower has gone into bridge programs.

Nobody has yet programmed a computer to take part in *the bidding round* in bridge, which determines which cards *shall* be trumps and how many tricks must be won to satisfy a contract. By the end of this round, one player, the declarer, will have outbid the rest to win the contract — which might be to win nine tricks with clubs as trumps.

At this point the declarer's partner's hand is laid face upwards on the table, and the declarer plays *this hand* together with his own, trying to win the promised number of tricks. Bridge programs so far all take the part of the declarer, using computer power to work out the best strategy to win the tricks.

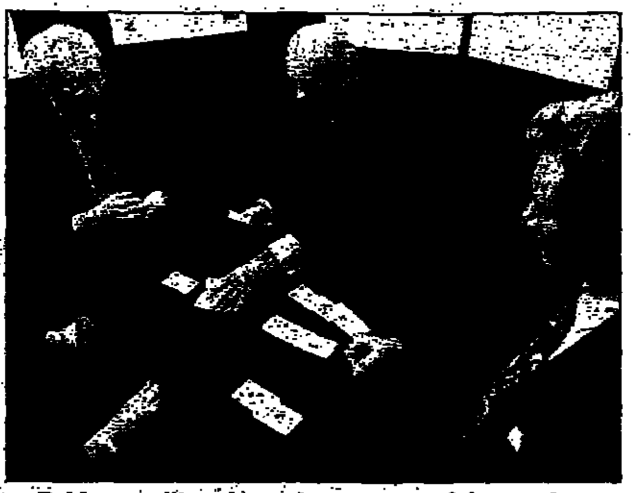
Dr Ginsburg's program is based on the searching power of the computer. "Computers search better than we do and the most successful bridge programs should exploit that," he told *New Scientist*.

His program aims to search all possible card combinations in a game. That is an impossibly large number, so he incorporates ways of reducing it. Small cards that will never *win tricks are lumped* together, and the computer stops searching once it has found a set of plays that will win the required number of tricks. *After each play*, the computer calculates afresh, mentally reshuffling and redealing the opponents' cards and working out which card works best, on average, over a large number of potential hands they may actually hold. The approach is *not subtle, nor is it* based on the way humans play bridge, but Dr Ginsberg says it works.

He tried it against a teaching program called Bridge Master, designed to assess how well a player tackles 180 different hands. He said it performed far better than any other bridge program. "It's not an incremental improve*ment," he said. "It's* a whole new standard."

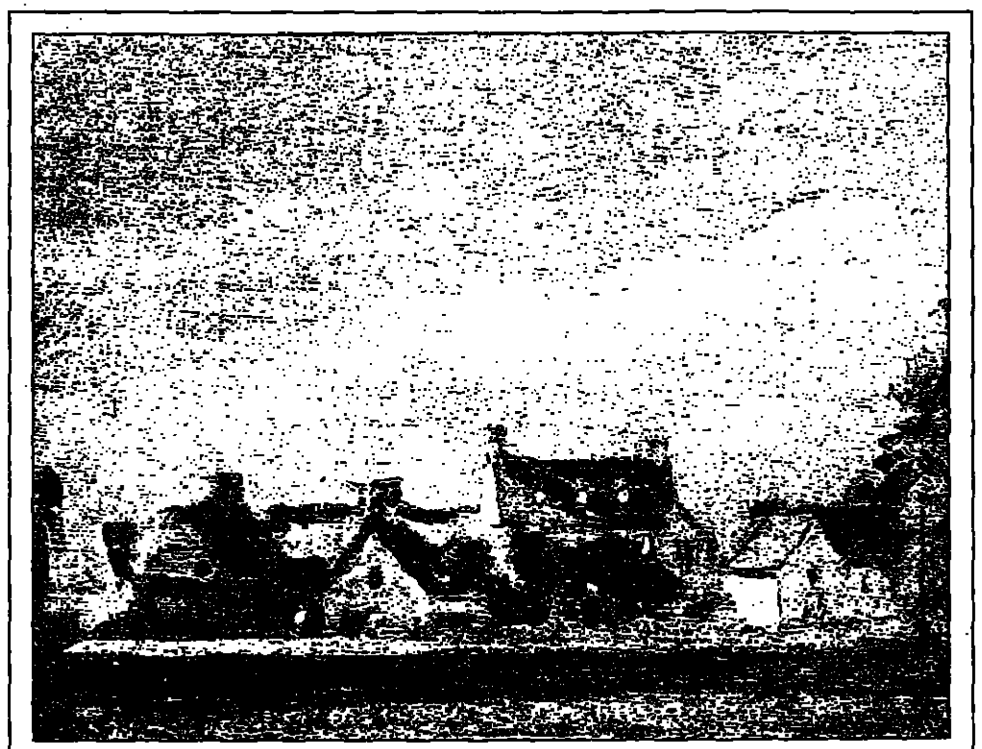
He admitted that the program misses a lot of the game's subtlety, such as playing a card to find out where another one is. "We're trying to walk," he said. "We're not *trying to run in the Olympics*."

Other bridge programs have adopted different approaches, attempting for example to model how a human player operates. Dr Ginsberg rejected this in favour of a number-crunching approach. *He* saw no reason why programs should not also take part in the bidding round. "In a couple of years, I think that computers will be able to play *with the best of them*."



Bridge, unlike chess, is a game of incomplete information which demands pre-planning

Leading article, page 23
Bridge column, page 49



Beaufort Cottage from Golding Constable's House, which sold for £106,000

Villagers add authentic view to Constable sketch

AN *UNRECORDED* sketch by Constable sold for £106,000 yesterday after the view was identified as showing East Bergholt, Suffolk (John Shaw writes).

Three villagers recognised a row of houses in the study, and the precise location added to its value. The picture, only 5½in by 7¼in, had been estimated at no more than £50,000.

Catherine Broom-Lynne, an artist, and Bruce and Gillian Walker, Constable enthusiasts, identified the scene. The hitherto unknown picture, now entitled *Beaufort Cottage from Golding Constable's House*, probably painted in the summer of 1811, was bought anonymously. Golding Constable was the father of the artist, who was born in East Bergholt.

David Moore-Gwyn, of Sotheby's, said it had come to auction from America. Graham Reynolds, a Constable scholar, confirmed it was genuine and Mrs Broom-Lynne was asked if she could identify the location. She and Mr and Mrs Walker walked around the village looking at houses. Mrs Walker said: "The viewpoint is outside his father's house. He must have sat in the road looking across the village green."

The jigsaw was completed by Ian Fleming Williams, another Constable scholar, who saw parallels with two pictures in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Waitrose quail eggs are hatch of the day

By Robin Young

AN AMATEUR poultry breeder has managed to hatch *ten quail from eggs she bought* at her local supermarket.

Ann Brewer put nearly all the four dozen eggs from Waitrose in Petersfield, Hampshire, in an incubator after she opened one and saw it was fertilised. Mrs Brewer, of Froxfield, said yesterday: "When I cracked one egg open I noticed it had a fertilisation *mark, so I thought it would be* worth a try.

"Some of the quail farmers obviously have male birds running with the hens. These eggs had come from Lancashire, but they would be fresh enough to incubate for a week *or two*.

"It does not mean that if you buy eggs from a supermarket you will find a baby bird inside when you break it open, but anyone who tries to incubate quail eggs could be lucky. I shall be selling my ten quail. *If I released them they would* just be taken by rats."

The same experiment with hens' eggs would certainly fail, since there is little or no chance of them being fertilised. A spokeswoman for Waitrose said: "The hatchings are *surprising, but obviously* not impossible.

"On most farms chick separation would make fertilisation highly unlikely, and any fertilised embryos would be likely to be killed by the chilling process. They are not *harmful in any way*."

Littlewoods catalogue had 1,000 misleading prices

By Paul Wilkinson

A *BED* offered at £179.99 in a Littlewoods sale catalogue had been on offer for £30 less in the mail order firm's standard Index listing. It was one of *more than 1,000 items wrongly priced in the supplementary* winter catalogue issued by the Merseyside home shopping firm, magistrates at Widnes, Cheshire, were told yesterday.

Littlewoods admitted seven specimen charges under the 1987 *Consumer Protection Act* of publishing misleading prices in last winter's sale catalogue. It was fined a total of £12,250 and ordered to pay costs of £2,114.

Ian Moore, prosecuting for Cheshire Trading Standards *Department, said that instead* of customers getting the reductions they were expecting, some goods had been increased in price, many were just the same and the majority had never been on offer before. A pair of running shoes advertised in the Index catalogue at £32.99 were £1 more in the winter sale supplement. A pair of curtains priced at £44.99 in the Littlewoods Home Shopping volume were £49.99 in the supplement and a waterproof jacket allegedly *reduced to £17.99 had not been* offered for sale before.

Mr Moore said the offences came to light after John Almond, from Widnes, decided to check prices in the supplementary catalogue issued in October last year against the 1995 spring and winter Littlewoods Home Shopping and Index catalogues.

He reported several discrepancies to trading standards *officials, who then checked* every item in the supplement against the full-price catalogues. They found that in the Littlewoods catalogue only 21 per cent of the prices were reductions, 10 per cent were the same price and 60 per cent *had never appeared in previous catalogues*. In the Index catalogue 7 per cent were the same, 4 per cent had been increased in price and 64 per cent were fresh goods.

David Hewitt, for Littlewoods, said none of the breaches was deliberate. *The company had now changed its* supplementary catalogues and the situation would never arise again. It had not been intended to reduce many of the items in the catalogues and the other items were special offers. *He acknowledged that anyone* reading the front of the brochure with "Don't miss massive savings" and "Big winter sale" would assume all the *items* offered had been reduced.

After the hearing, Tim Rogers, *head of Littlewoods media* services said: "Mistakes were made in the production of the Autumn-Winter 1995 sales brochure."

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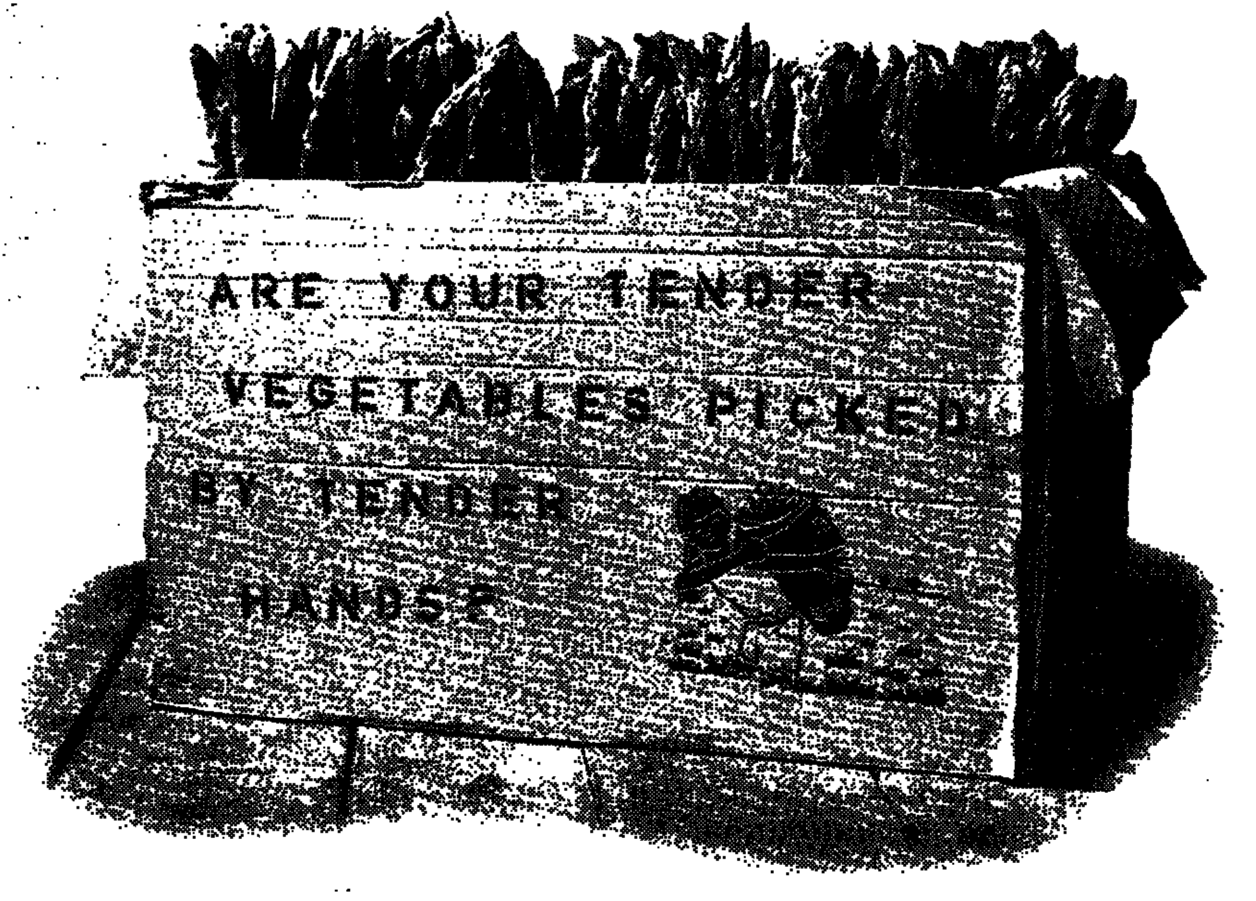

Ica, Peru. A young girl is taken from school to work alongside her mother in the asparagus fields. The asparagus picking season in Peru coincides with year-end exams. So the girls who have to work are the ones who will miss out on schooling. And all this to earn just enough for one meal a day.

Love that asparagus. Shame it exploits women and teenage children.

Love those Kenya beans. Shame the people who harvest them work a 44 hour week for 11p an hour and can't *afford to feed their families*.

Time and again, those crisp, wholesome vegetables in your supermarket trolley hide a distasteful secret.

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A boycott isn't the answer because it can make things even worse for the growers and pickers by taking away the market. And in any case, you can't always tell just by looking which products involve exploitation and which don't.

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Central tourist sites may be closed to traffic

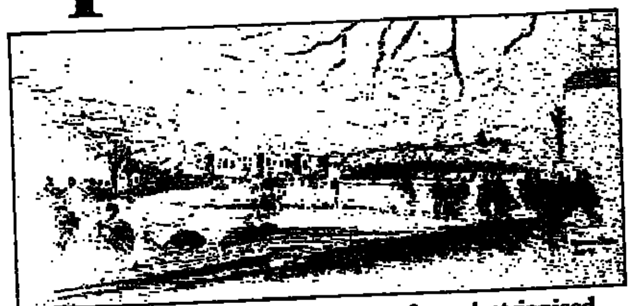
Foster picked to produce masterplan for London

By Marcus Binney

SIR NORMAN FOSTER is to produce a plan for central London that will include extensive pedestrianisation and widening of pavements. Taxi drivers will hate it, but pedestrians and cyclists will have much-improved conditions.

Westminster planning committee last night chose Foster and Partners as the team of consultants to advise on improvements to Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square, Whitehall and the Victoria Embankment. Sir Norman recently advocated a scheme for closing the road between Horse Guards Parade and St James's Park.

He won against fierce competition from his arch rival, Lord Rogers, and other leading practices including MacCormac Jamieson Pritchard, the conservation architect Donald Insall, and Llewelyn-Davies and EDAW, two of the runners-up in the recent competition to replan the centre of Manchester after the IRA bomb blast. Sir Norman's victory over his former partner Richard Rogers is the latest round in an intense architectural rivalry. While Sir Norman is the clear leader in world terms, with offices in Berlin, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Tokyo, Lord Rogers has kept the edge in Britain.



A sketch by Foster and Partners of a pedestrianised Horse Guards Parade, now a car park on weekdays

Enobled recently as a Labour peer he has remained a favourite architect of Tory ministers, notably John Gummer, who has approved Lord Rogers's proposals for a 20-storey block of luxury flats on the South Bank, and Michael Heseltine and Virginia Bottomley, who as millennium commissioners chose him to design the giant domed tent at Greenwich for the millennium festival.

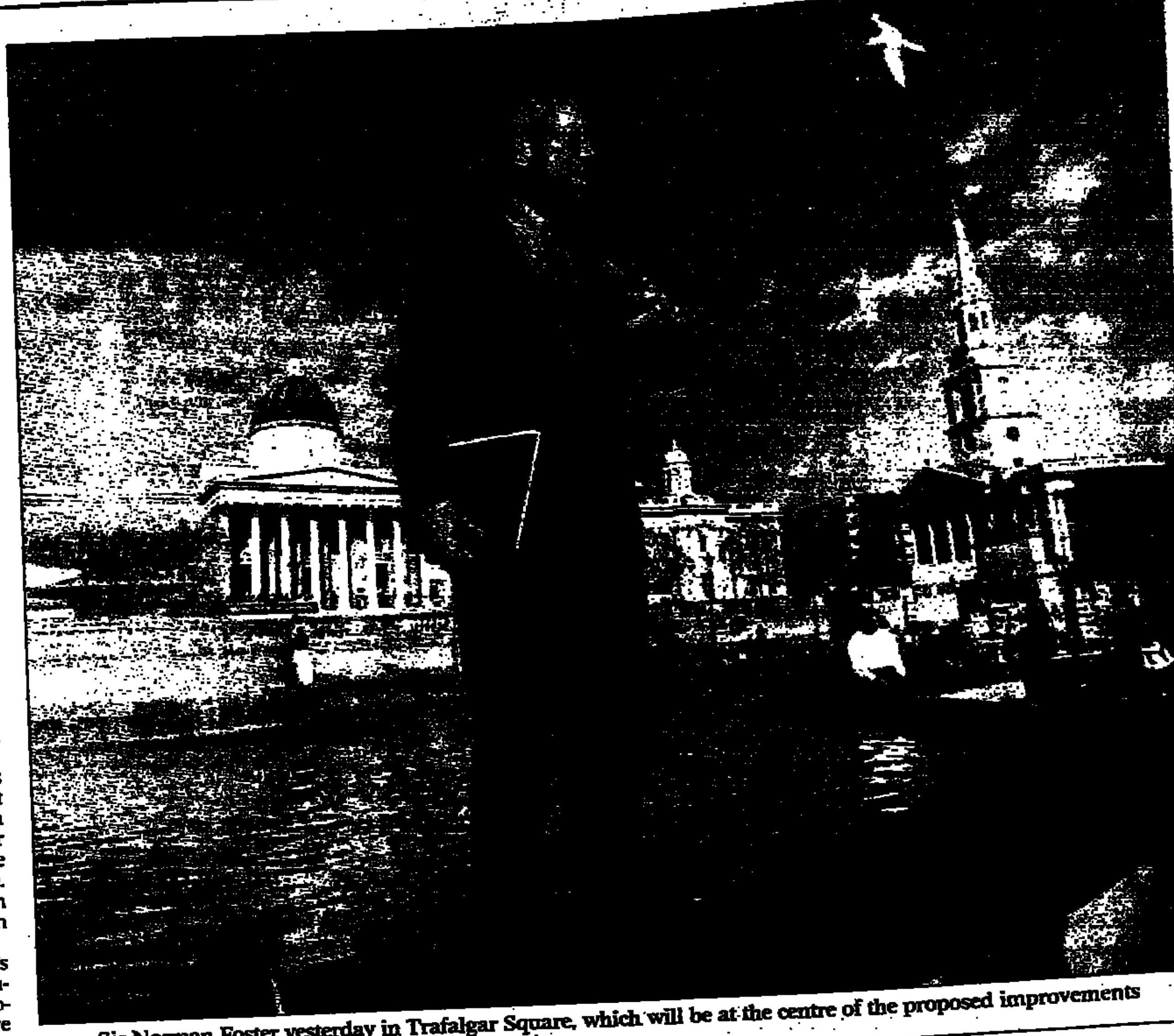
Westminster's decision will come as a cruel blow to Lord Rogers, who has made the replanning of central London a personal crusade for the past ten years. At the Royal Academy he exhibited proposals for a visionary remodelling of the Victoria Embankment, suggesting it should be closed to traffic in front of Somerset House, creating a giant riverside promenade. More recently Lord Rogers has put forward detailed proposals for removing traffic from three sides of Trafalgar Square and turning Northumberland Avenue into London's answer to Barcelona's Ramblas, with its wide central walkway.

The contract for the redesign was highly sought after. A triumphant Sir Norman stood in Trafalgar Square yesterday and showed his audience two blank pages in his sketch book. "We have no preconceptions, no designs. We come to the task with an open mind," he said.

"Certainly our proposals will contain a strong element of pedestrianisation. My team includes those responsible for the highly successful scheme of paving in Leicester Square. We will complete our plans in 12 months and be holding an exhibition next summer."

Ironically, it is Foster's blank sheet of paper, compared with Lord Rogers' elaborate plans, that may have won him the commission.

DES JENSON



Sir Norman Foster yesterday in Trafalgar Square, which will be at the centre of the proposed improvements

Princess to address leprosy meeting

By A Staff Reporter

DIANA, Princess of Wales is to address the thirtieth anniversary meeting of international leprosy organisations next month. Her speech, to be made in London, is one of three public engagements announced yesterday.

She will also speak at the annual meeting of Centrepoint, the homelessness charity, and will attend a gala evening for the English National Ballet at St James's Palace. They are the first public engagements to be announced since her visit to Sydney nearly two weeks ago, during which she spoke at a fund-raising dinner for a heart research charity and visited a hospice. Her last public appearance in Britain was at the London Lighthouse centre for people with Aids and HIV.

The three organisations behind her engagements announced yesterday are among the six on which she decided to concentrate after dropping her patronage of many charities as she prepared for divorce. The leprosy meeting will be held on December 9 at the Wellcome Trust in Euston.

Fake doctor gave two injections to patient

By Dominic Kennedy

A BOGUS doctor gave two injections to a disabled woman after calling at her house. The woman allowed herself to be injected in the arm by the visitor, who arrived on her doorstep on Tuesday, thinking that she was a doctor from her health centre in Faversham, Kent.

Kent Police said yesterday: "We would warn anyone who is calling out a doctor to check for identification. We can only assume that this woman was a bogus doctor. She administered two injections to the disabled woman, but she suffered no ill effects."

The incident it believed to be an example of "white coat syndrome", when people convince patients and staff that they are qualified professionals. This case is unusual, as the syndrome is usually restricted to hospitals.

Mike Berry, a forensic clinical psychologist, said: "Some people like the kick they get out of being a medic — the power and control." He suggested that the bogus doctor — a woman in her 30s, wearing a blue trenchcoat — could be mentally ill or have a personality disorder, especially if the injections involved drugs.

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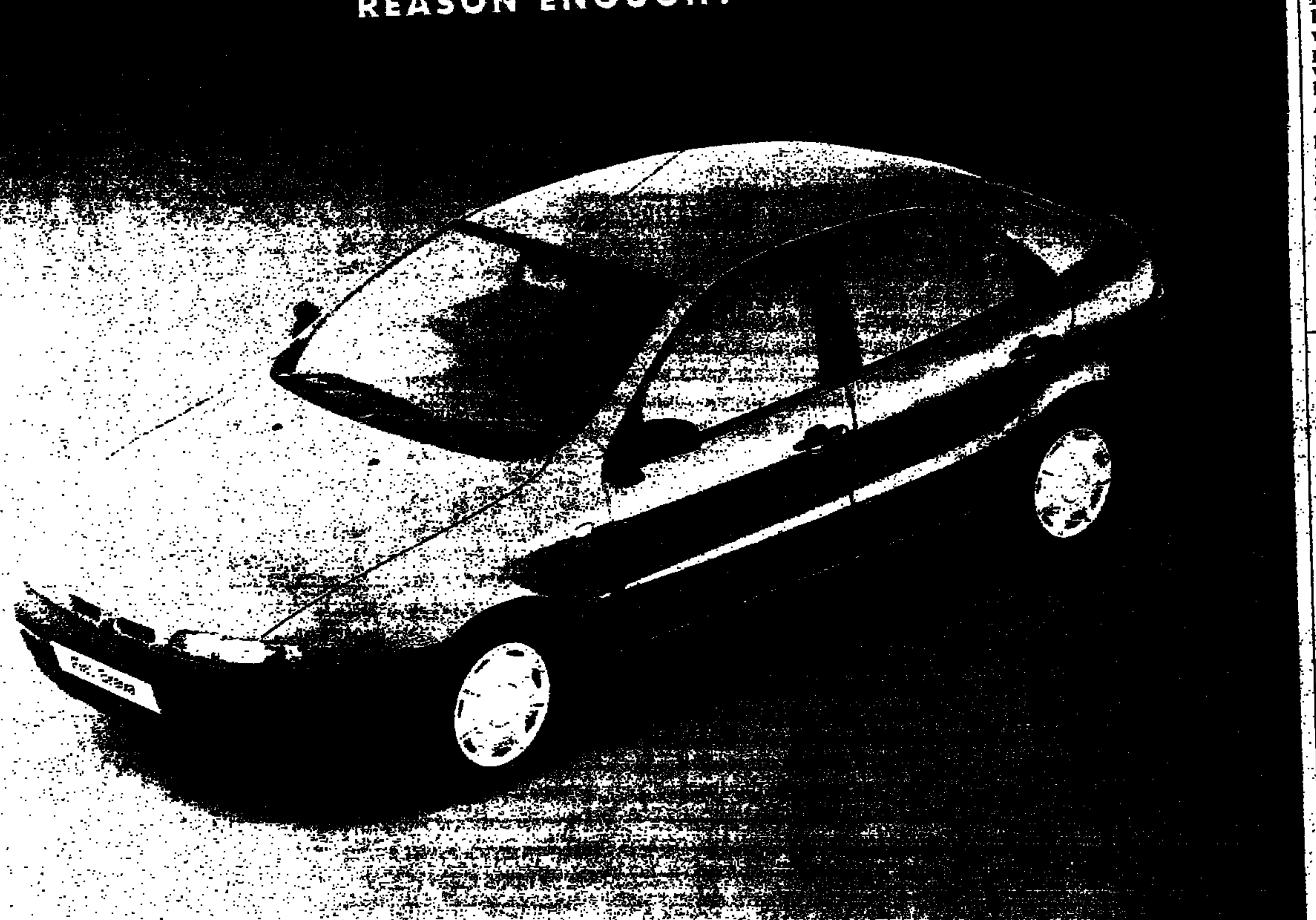

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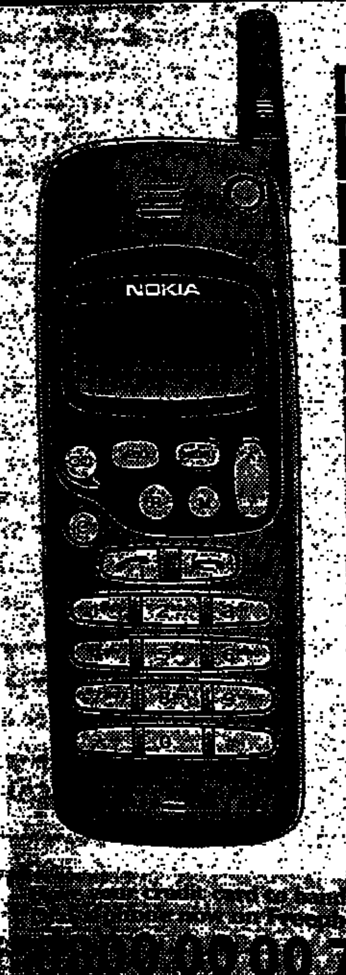

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هكذا من الاصل

Cheap roofing tiles 'threaten diversity of old England'

By Russell Jenkins

A CAMPAIGN was launched yesterday to protect the rich variety of England's traditional stone slate roofs. English Heritage gave a warning that cheap concrete and synthetic imports were driving the slate industry into crisis, with ancient skills in danger of dying out.

Over the centuries, locally quarried slates — from Yorkshire sandstone to the limestone villages of the Cotswolds and Dorset — had played a central role in creating distinct regions, the conservation body said. This "vernacular footprint" was being steadily rubbed out.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the English Heritage chairman, called on local authorities, planners, developers, owners and architects to join the crusade. Launching the *Roofs of England* campaign at the National Stone Centre in Wirksworth, Derbyshire, he said: "Stone slates are among the most beautiful of all roofing materials: a marvellous and understated legacy from the past that records the skills of generations of craftsmen.

"Yet stone slates are vanishing before our eyes. Owners of historic buildings are having to rely on imports that often look vile and will only last half as long as the local stones they are replacing." He added: "Let's begin saying 'no' to the fake and bogus substitutes that seem such a bargain in the short term and turn out to be rotten and expensive alternatives in the long term."

A Shropshire example of regional slates

The campaign, backed by a travelling exhibition, follows a year-long research project by English Heritage, Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park that took the stone slate industry of the South Pennines as a model. Sue Macdonald, the project co-ordinator, said the homogeneity of many English villages and towns been destroyed. The rooftops of Bakewell, Derbyshire, for example, had ended up like a patchwork quilt of blue slates, red tiles and other alien imports.

Roofing slates have been used in England since Roman times and by the 19th century had become the standard, with local supplies of material and skills. The industry was on a small scale with each village using its local quarry for supplies. Sir Jocelyn said they determined the character of towns and villages, providing a sense of place.

"Like wine, stone is known by the name of the region from which it comes," he said. "Think of the Cotswolds, for example, and you immediately think of warmly textured golden limestone buildings, steeply pitched roofs and dormer windows. Think of Wirksworth and you immediately think of the local sandstone, the grey slates as they are called, which can be as large as 4ft long, dwarfing the tiny mopes, mumfords, tants and becks, and all those other wonderfully named sizes of slates that are to be found from the Isle of Purbeck to the Yorkshire Dales."

Mass production and the creation of a national network of roads and railways led in the last century to the introduction of cheap industrial roof claddings, often from abroad, and the steady decline of the localised industry.

Sir Jocelyn criticised local planning authorities, building owners and architects for a laisser faire attitude to architectural salvage. Stripping some buildings to roof others had forced up the price of some slates, making them targets for thieves.

"Current demands for new stone slates can be met, not from making new scars on the hillsides but instead from reopening old quarries," he said.

TARAS KOVALIV

Sir Stanley Matthews, left, and Lawton's Notts County team-mate Jack Sewell at the funeral yesterday

Hundreds gather to wish Lawton farewell

HUNDREDS of soccer fans gathered in Nottingham yesterday for the funeral of the former England centre forward Tommy Lawton, who died from pneumonia last week, aged 77.

His cortege paused outside the Notts County ground at Meadow Lane, where Lawton played and was later manager, on its way to Bramcote Crematorium. His coffin was draped in a white flag with the three lions of England. It also carried one of his international caps, won in a match against Holland in the 1940s, and lent by a collector.

The Rev Clifford Wilton, who led the service, said that Lawton, who scored 22 times for England in 23 games, "will be remembered with pride. He was a man who brought honour to the game."

Earlier, Sir Stanley Matthews, his England colleague, called Lawton "the greatest-ever centre forward. He was a wonderful man: modest, charming, with a wonderful sense of humour."

SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES

THE MAXWELL INHERITANCE

Ginny Dougary meets Kevin and Pandora Maxwell

100 WINTER WINES

Jane MacQuitty picks the top 20 at under £5

THE DIRECTORY

Your guide to going out and staying in, with 7 days' TV and radio

Arson gang pumped petrol into science lab

By A Staff Reporter

A FIRE that swept through a forensic science laboratory containing evidence from hundreds of police investigations was the result of a "determined and prolonged" arson attack, police said yesterday.

Nine holes were drilled in the building at Wetherby, Yorkshire, and a garden pump was used to pour gallons of petrol inside. Police believe a firework was then thrown into the laboratory to start Monday night's blaze.

A tenth of the building, one of seven laboratories in the country run by the Home Office forensic science service, was damaged. The laboratory analyses samples, including blood and DNA, from police forces in the North.

The Home Office said yesterday it was still assessing whether any criminal evidence was destroyed, although it expected the laboratory would return to normal working in a few days.

Detective Superintendent Brian Steele, of West Yorkshire Police, said: "Having had a look at the scene it is clear it was a determined and prolonged attack upon the premises." More than one person was involved, he added, but officers were keeping an open mind about a motive.

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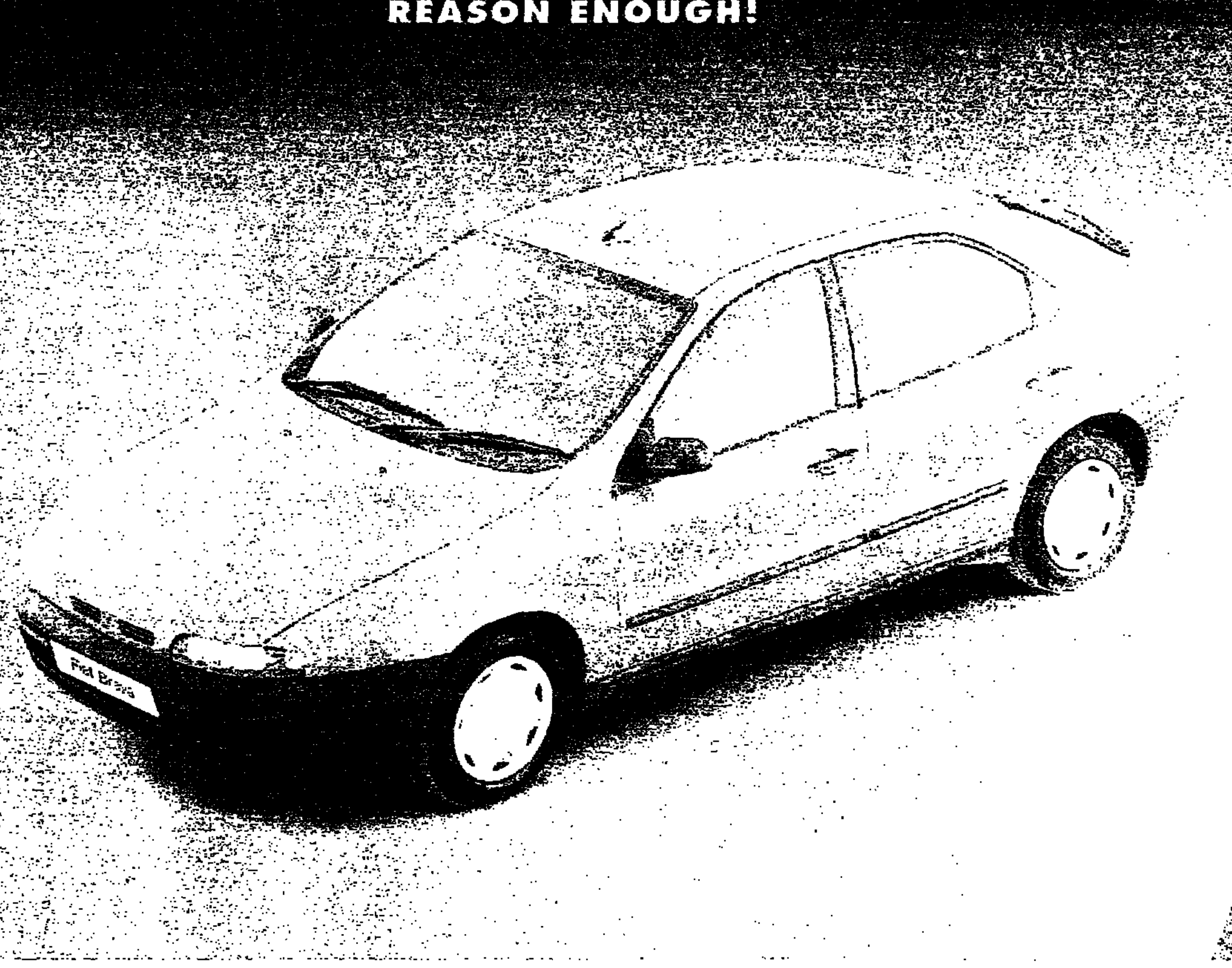

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Doctors should be free to make decisions on individual cases, says White Paper

Cost is no barrier to NHS treatment, pledges Dorrell

By Jeremy Laurance
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NO MEDICAL treament should be ruled out by health authorities seeking to save money on tight NHS budgets, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said yesterday.

In a warning to NHS managers tempted to withdraw access to treatments such as tattoo removal or *in vitro* fertilisation on the NHS, Mr Dorrell said there was no justification for imposing blanket bans on treatments.

A White Paper published yesterday setting out the Government's aspirations for the NHS pledges that it will continue to provide a universal, free service funded from taxation.

The document, *A Service With Ambitions*, rejects the doom mongers' view, championed by Sir Duncan Nichol, the former NHS chief executive, that the health service will be unable to meet the demands on it without extra sources of funds. However, it also dismisses calls for national rationing of treatments, on the ground that clinical freedom must be preserved because there is always someone who may benefit.

Mr Dorrell said it was the task of politicians and NHS managers to establish priorities and to set the framework within which doctors worked. "What we can't do is seek to prescribe in advance individual decisions about individual patients."

In the case of *in vitro* fertilisation, whose availability on the NHS is severely restricted, he said that its low success rate had been one factor which determined the slow pace of its introduction into the NHS.

He added: "No health authority should have a blanket ban on *in vitro* fertilisation. There is guidance about the availability of particular treatments which still leaves clinicians free to argue for them for particular patients."

The White Paper's defence of the health service was welcomed by medical organisations yesterday, but was attacked by Labour as a "pre-election stunt" which contained no proposals for legislation.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said the NHS had to win public and political support for the changes that had to take place if the White Paper's ambitions were to be realised.

"We are having real problems in persuading the public that the centralisation of some services and the transfer of others to local settings will provide much better services. I'm very doubtful that the internal market is sufficient in itself to power such changes," he said.

Earlier, Mr Dorrell told the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme that the Government had comprehensively won the argument over its NHS market reforms. He rejected opposition claims that the Government wants to privatise the service, saying: "If a Conservative Government had wanted to privatise the NHS — it's been in power for 17 years — it might have started to do something about it.

"This paper sets out very clearly our commitment to continue to deliver high value, high quality health care for patients on the basis of their clinical need, without asking if they can afford to pay for it."

But Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "One thing this White Paper simply doesn't do is address the real crisis that is facing the health service now — the people waiting on trolleys for accident and emergency service, the people having their operations cancelled, 11,500 of them in the past year, the fact that the health service over the past five years has employed 50,000 fewer nurses and 20,000 more managers."

Mr Smith described drawing up the White Paper as "an abuse of civil servants' time".

Letters, page 21

IAN WALDIE

Stephen Dorrell yesterday: he promised high-quality care

Ombudsman attacks hospital where woman died after ten-hour wait

By Jeremy Laurance

A WOMAN left for ten hours in a hospital casualty department had a heart attack and died before a bed was found for her, the NHS ombudsman reports today.

The patient, who was waiting for treatment at the King George Hospital in Ilford, Essex, was not seen promptly by a doctor and received inadequate care from nurses, the ombudsman, Sir William Reid, says. Details of the case, from among 95 investigated between April and September, are released the day after Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, published fictional examples of top-quality care in a White Paper on the NHS's future.

Entitled *A Service With Ambitions*, the White Paper cites nine examples of the ideal kind of care the public could expect from the NHS in the next decade. The ombudsman's report provides a reminder of how far there is to go to meet that standard. Sir William's report reveals serious shortcomings in medical care and deficiencies in staffing levels, equipment and record keeping.

The woman was taken to the Ilford hospital at 4.40am and categorised as a "priority two" patient, meaning she should have been seen by a doctor within an hour and found a bed within 90 minutes. The time she was seen by the doctor and the time of the decision to admit her were not recorded, but it was "clearly well in excess of the [hospital] trust's own standard," the report says. She was referred to the medical team at 7.50am and the next entry, at 2.20pm, recorded her cardiac arrest.

The ombudsman says ten hours "is far too long for any patient to have to wait in an A and E department ... The care she received during that time was inadequate: nursing observations were not carried out and there was no call-bell to attract the attention of staff. The number and skills of staff were inadequate."

In a second complaint upheld by the ombudsman concerning the same hospital, a man with breathing difficulties collapsed and died after nurses failed to follow a doctor's instructions to set up an intravenous drip. Sir William criticised doctors at the hospital for failing to recognise that they were responsible for administering drugs.

☐ *Health Service Commissioner, Selected Investigations Completed April to September 1996* (HMSO, £18.70)

Scientists warn of rise in skin cancer

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

CASES of cancer and prematurely wrinkled skin in Britain are expected to rise sharply over the coming decades as the Earth's ozone layer thins, scientists said yesterday.

Researchers for the Stratospheric Ozone Review Group, which advises the Government on the impact of man-made pollution on the Earth's protective shield, believe that, even if the layer recovers, cases of skin cancer will rise by 10 per cent.

It means an extra 8,000 cases by 2046 of one of the hardest cancers to diagnose as young children are exposed to more intense sunlight over their lifetimes. Along with a rise in cataracts and diseases such as herpes, scientists have for the first time calculated the likely impacts of higher ultraviolet light on wrinkles and other skin conditions. "Solar exposure causes skin photoageing, which is characterised by wrinkling. Increased risk of photoageing as a result of ozone layer depletion is likely to be similar to that for skin cancer," the scientists concluded.

The researchers believe that their estimates are conservative. Dr Anne Webb, of the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology and a member of the advisory team, said yesterday that estimates were based on existing forecasts on the recovery of the layer and an assumption that lifestyles would remain unchanged.

However, John Pyle, of Cambridge University, who is chairman of the advisory group, said there was evidence that the recovery of the ozone layer might be far less rapid than had previously been supposed.

The researchers now believe that damage to the ozone layer will continue to thin it up to 2010. Full recovery is now unlikely until 2050.

Call for screening to wipe out bone disease

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE brittle bone disease osteoporosis, which affects one women in four over the age of 60, could be largely eradicated by better screening and new treatments.

A report published yesterday by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPTI) says that new drugs to combat the disease, plus a political commitment, could end the threat it poses to millions of women.

"We know who is most at risk of developing osteoporosis; we have diagnostic methods to identify them; and we now have safe and acceptable preventive medicines with others just around the corner," the report says. "All that is needed is the political will, and osteoporosis could be largely eradicated as a significant health threat."

The report, *Target Osteoporosis*, says that the disease is a major cause of disablement and death. Caused by a process in which bones become brittle and prone to breakage, it is extremely common, especially in older women.

Of the seven million post-menopausal women in Britain, some three million will experience at least one bone fracture caused by the condition. Men fare better but, nevertheless, one in 12 suffers from osteoporosis after the age of 50.

Hip fractures, of which 45,000 occur every year in Britain, are a special hazard. More women die from the after-effects of osteoporosis fractures than of cancers of the ovaries, cervix and womb put together. Yet osteoporosis is among the most preventable of diseases. Dr Trevor Jones, director-general of the ABPI, said: "The British-based pharmaceutical industry has made great strides in producing medicines to combat it, and more are in the pipeline.

"It would be a real triumph for the thousands of scientists working in British laboratories if this disease no longer posed a significant health risk for the elderly." Such an achievement would save not only millions of pounds for the NHS but also suffering for millions of people.

The disease can be detected by X-ray absorbtion scanning, but no more than about 1 per cent of women at risk are ever scanned. Britain has a smaller proportion of bone-scanners than many other countries. Once detected, the disease can be treated in a variety of ways. Hormone replacement therapy, developed to treat menopausal symptoms, can slow or halt bone loss. Other types of drug are either already available or in development.

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Police will fight plan to register Masons

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

BRITAIN'S biggest police organisation is fighting plans by chief constables to ask officers to declare whether they are Freemasons or members of other secret groups, such as Opus Dei.

Yesterday the Police Federation, which represents 120,000 junior officers, accused chief constables of planning an "unwarranted interference" with the private lives of police officers. It said: "Those in command of Britain's police forces appear more concerned to portray a politically correct image than they are to safeguard the rights of police in a free society."

Last month the Association of Chief Police Officers called on all officers who were Freemasons to register their involvement and ease public concern about the influence of the Masons. The chief constables also urged officers to consider giving up their membership and pledged to lobby the Government to create a compulsory register.

Soon after the announcement, the leader of the Police Superintendents' Association expressed concern. All sections of the police service are due to discuss the plans and may combine to oppose them.

Three years ago delegates at the federation's annual conference rejected proposals for a voluntary register. Fred Broughton, the current chairman of the federation, is not a Freemason, but the organisation's officials include officers who are. The federation said officers had always accepted that they had to avoid anything in their private lives which might affect their impartiality. All recruits take an oath pledging their services "without fear or favour".

The association claimed that the chief constables were impugning that guarantee and acting on very slender evidence. Although there had been rumours about bias in the police caused by Freemasonry, there was no evidence to support it.

Hands-off rule – even on the dancefloor – keeps mixed ships on even keel

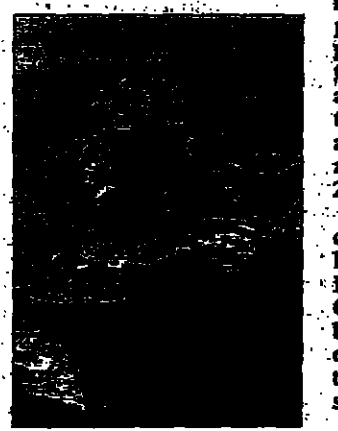
Wrens back a touch of naval equality

From Michael Evans on HMS Invincible in the Gulf

THE men and women on *HMS Invincible* do not touch each other even at dances on board ship. The "no touching rule" applies as much to the dancefloor as it does to the mess halls, the wardroom and the darkened atmosphere of the operations room.

The decision to send Wrens to sea may be an issue at home on the few occasions when "hanky-panky" courts martial hit the headlines. But on an aircraft carrier that has about 110 Wrens living and working with nearly 1,000 men, the young women — whether in dirty blue overalls or starched white shorts and shirts — shudder at the thought of seeing couples walking around the ship holding hands.

One young Wren said: "That would be really sleazy. When we're alongside [ashore], that's different, but on board ship we all stick to the rules." Another said: "We're living in a man's world and we have to be one of the lads, not girlie girls. Of course, they realise we're not guys, but we wait until we go alongside. When we're back on board we have to be just friends."



HMS Invincible: 110 women and 1,000 men

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Wrens who were happy to give their names were, without exception, content with the no-touching rule and appeared interested only in proving they were as good as their male colleagues at work and better at retaliatory banter. "You have to give as good as you get," Wren Operator/Maintainer Sarah Gill, 20, said.

Wren Air Engineer Mechanic Liz Ritchie, 21, is leaving the Royal Navy in March 1998, having joined in October 1992, but that is because she has decided she does not want to go to sea for the next 20 years. Men make similar decisions.

CHRIS HARRIS

Air Engineering Mechanic Liz Ritchie at work. "I enjoy it, but you have to stand up for yourself," she said

Wren Ritchie, who comes from Glasgow and has a boyfriend in the Navy on another ship, admitted that being at sea — this is her first tour — was a big shock. However, she said: "I enjoy it. I know some of the blokes don't like women at sea and we have to accept some hassles, but you have to stand up for yourself."

Wren Gill, who works with four men maintaining communications equipment, was equally adamant about keeping relationships strictly professional. She said: "You can't have people walking around holding hands."

Her male colleagues clearly enjoy her company. "She keeps us in line," Petty Officer Weapons Engineer Mechanic David Jacob, 33, said.

The most senior officer on board, Rear-Admiral Alan West, Commander United Kingdom Task Group, is the man who was originally responsible for recommending the Wrens-at-sea policy after a six-month study as a captain in 1989. The Navy Board went further and opened all ships to women. "I think they were right," he said, although he was told by one senior officer that the first Wren to become pregnant at sea would be his fault.

American example, page 21

Sailor is cleared of assault after kisses in the West Indies

By Michael Evans

THE case against a sailor charged with indecently assaulting a Wren on board a Royal Navy frigate was dropped yesterday after the court-martial prosecution offered no further evidence.

During legal arguments before the hearing began, it was revealed that the Wren had made previous allegations of sexual assault. They included two allegations of rape that led to no court action and one of sexual assault which resulted in a court martial that collapsed.

Weapon Engineering Mechanic Darren Garnsworthy, 22, now based at *HMS Drake* in Plymouth, had been accused of kissing a 22-year-old Wren aboard *HMS Norfolk* and forcing her to the deck before committing an indecent act. He was found not guilty after Lieutenant-Commander John Flanagan, for the prosecution, said that, after new information, he was offering no further evidence. No details of the information were given.

It emerged during the case that Rear-Admiral James Perowne, Flag Officer Submarines at Northwood, west London, who was captain of *HMS Norfolk* at the time, had been questioned over a delay in investigating the Wren's allegation. Nicholas Lewin, for the defence, said there had been an investigation into why the Navy's Special Investigations Branch was not called in at the time.

The assault was alleged to have happened in October 1994 while the frigate was in the West Indies, acting as a guardship.

WEM Garnsworthy said there had been kissing for a couple of seconds, but nothing more. Mr Lewin said the sailor had been given a "dressing down" for breaching the no-touching rule.

Photo call in hunt for sex attacker

Police hunting a sex attacker who assaulted an 11-year-old schoolboy are asking hundreds of men on two housing estates to allow their photographs to be taken to eliminate them from the search. The boy was grabbed from outside his home on the George Lambton estate in Newmarket last September, taken to playing fields and attacked. Ten detectives are now visiting 2,000 homes in the area.

Singular malt

A 1940 bottle of malt whisky has been sold for £1,900 — more than three times the price expected — at Christie's six-monthly whisky sale in Glasgow. The Strathisla malt went to an unnamed foreign buyer. The sale raised £63,842.

Bus hijacked

A bus driver was forced to drive 110 miles to Scotland after a man flagged down an empty Cleveland Transit bus in Stockton-on-Tees. The bus ran out of fuel on the A1 at Grantshouse, Borders, at 2.30am and the hijacker ran off.

Poster dispute

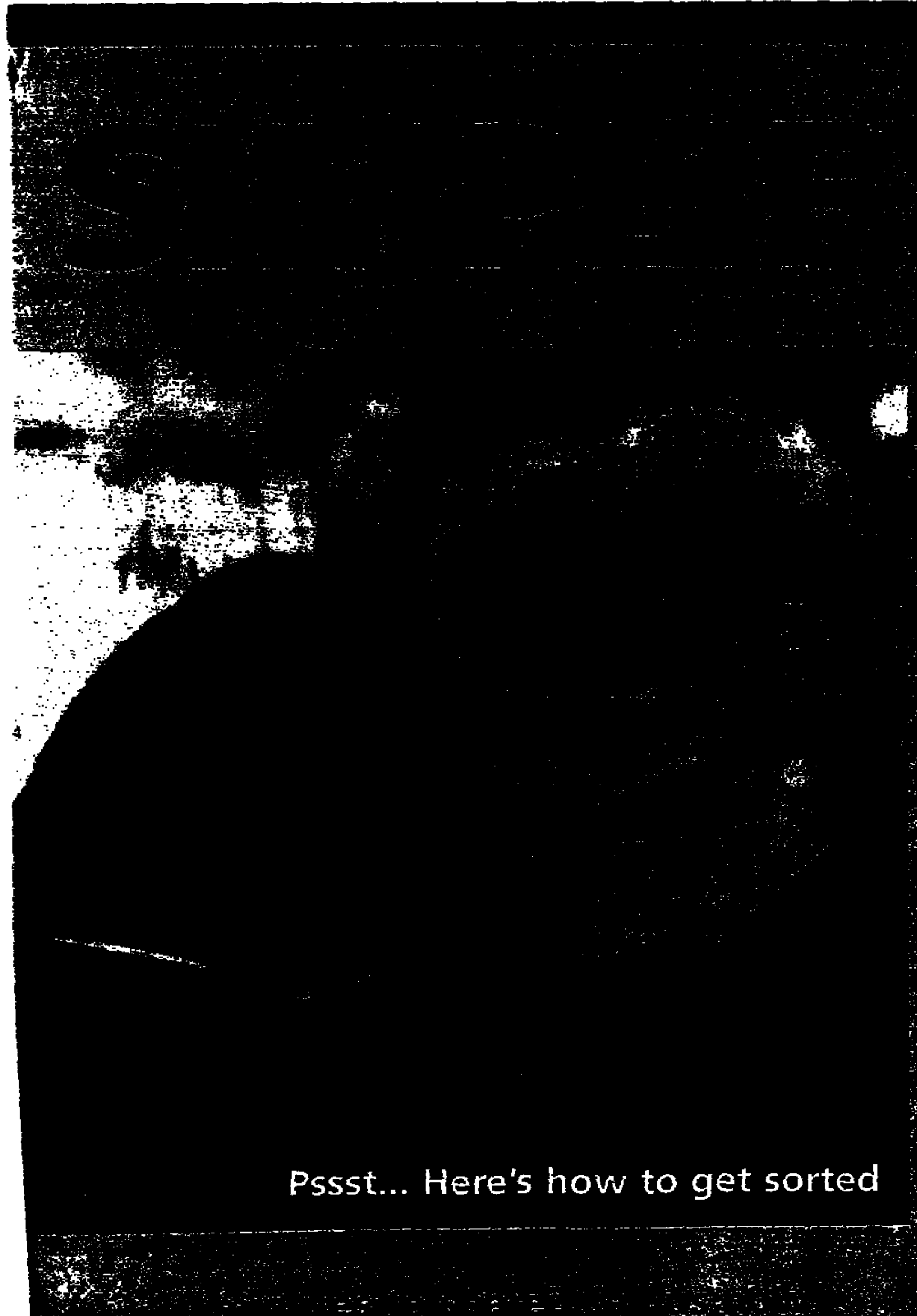
A poster of the Virgin Mary, advertising the Virgin records stores, has been condemned as blasphemous by Roman Catholic organisations in Ireland. The posters show a woman in a white veil and a blue T-shirt with "Virgin" across her chest.

Rail miles offer

Eurostar, which runs Channel Tunnel services to Paris and Brussels from London, announced a form of "rail miles" to reward all customers who buy a return ticket or two single tickets on its first and business-class services.

Mercury display

Freddie Mercury's life story will be told in photographs at a free public exhibition at the Royal Albert Hall later this month to mark the fifth anniversary of his death. The lead singer of Queen died in 1991 after contracting Aids.



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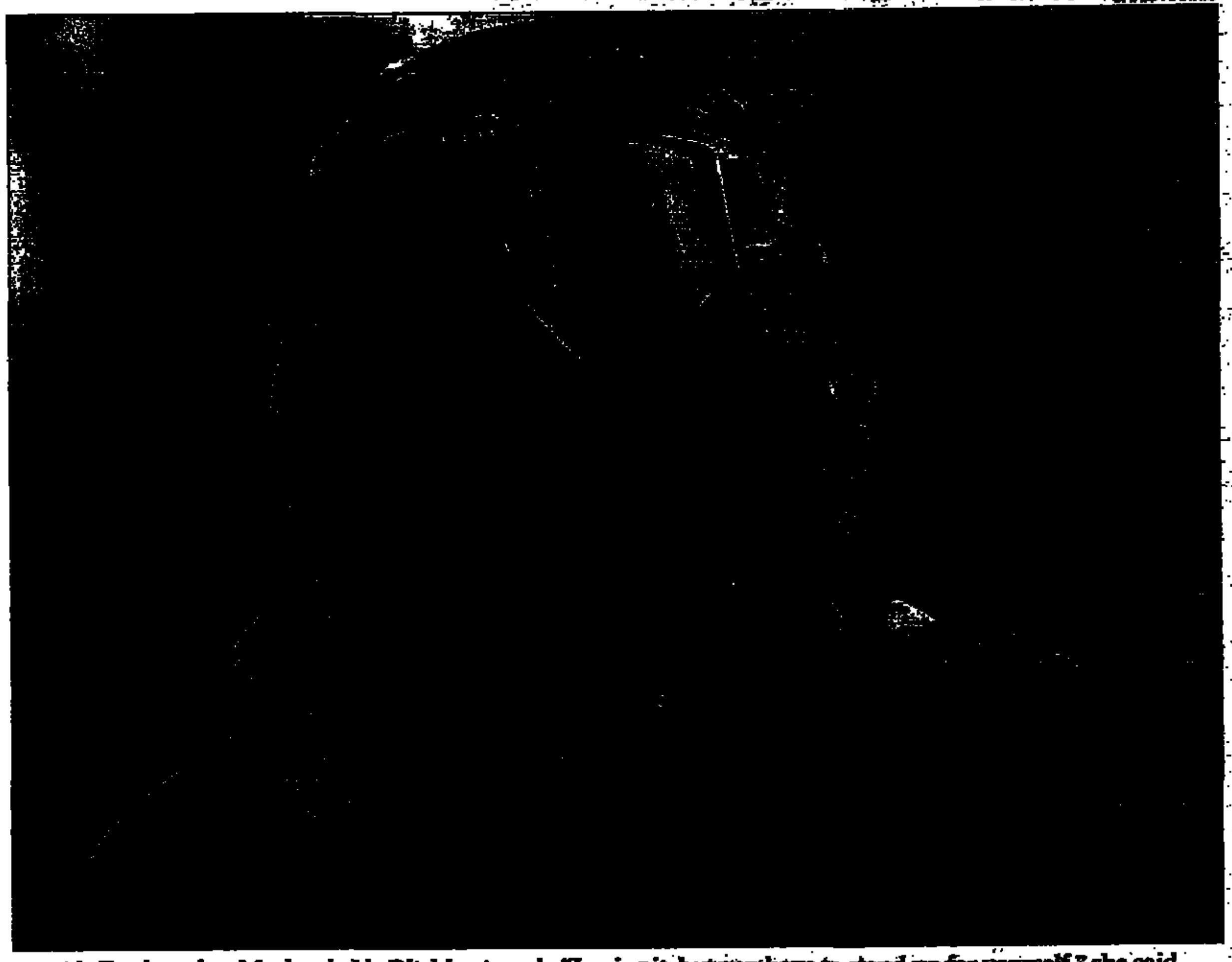

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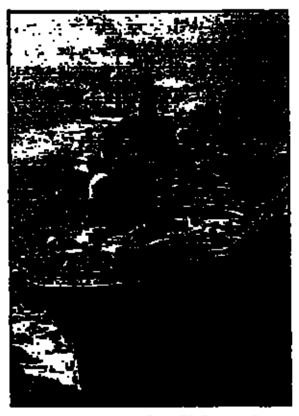

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Wren Gill, who works with four men maintaining communications equipment, was equally adamant about keeping relationships strictly professional. She said: "You can't have people walking around holding hands."

Her male colleagues clearly enjoy her company. "She keeps us in line," Petty Officer Weapons Engineer Mechanic David Jacob, 33, said.

The most senior officer on board, Rear-Admiral Alan West, Commander United Kingdom Task Group, is the man who was originally responsible for recommending the Wrens-at-sea policy after a six-month study as a captain in 1989. The Navy Board went further and opened all ships to women. "I think they were right," he said, although he was told by one senior officer that the first Wren to become pregnant at sea would be his fault.

American example, page 21

Sailor is cleared of assault after kisses in the West Indies

By Michael Evans

THE case against a sailor charged with indecently assaulting a Wren on board a Royal Navy frigate was dropped yesterday after the court-martial prosecution offered no further evidence.

During legal arguments before the hearing began, it was revealed that the Wren had made previous allegations of sexual assault. They included two allegations of rape that led to no court action and one of sexual assault which resulted in a court martial that collapsed.

Weapon Engineering Mechanic Darren Garnsworthy, 22, now based at *HMS Drake* in Plymouth, had been accused of kissing a 22-year-old Wren aboard *HMS Norfolk* and forcing her to the deck before committing an indecent act. He was found not guilty after Lieutenant-Commander John Flanagan, for the prosecution, said that, after new information, he was offering no further evidence. No details of the information were given.

It emerged during the case that Rear-Admiral James Perowne, Flag Officer Submarines at Northwood, west London, who was captain of *HMS Norfolk* at the time, had been questioned over a delay in investigating the Wren's allegation. Nicholas Lewin, for the defence, said there had been an investigation into why the Navy's Special Investigations Branch was not called in at the time.

The assault was alleged to have happened in October 1994 while the frigate was in the West Indies, acting as a guardship.

WEM Garnsworthy said there had been kissing for a couple of seconds, but nothing more. Mr Lewin said the sailor had been given a "dressing down" for breaching the no-touching rule.

Photo call in hunt for sex attacker

Police hunting a sex attacker who assaulted an 11-year-old schoolboy are asking hundreds of men on two housing estates to allow their photographs to be taken to eliminate them from the search. The boy was grabbed from outside his home on the George Lambton estate in Newmarket last September, taken to playing fields and attacked. Ten detectives are now visiting 2,000 homes in the area.

Singular malt

A 1940 bottle of malt whisky has been sold for £1,900 — more than three times the price expected — at Christie's six-monthly whisky sale in Glasgow. The Strathisla malt went to an unnamed foreign buyer. The sale raised £63,842.

Bus hijacked

A bus driver was forced to drive 110 miles to Scotland after a man flagged down an empty Cleveland Transit bus in Stockton-on-Tees. The bus ran out of fuel on the A1 at Grantshouse, Borders, at 2.30am and the hijacker ran off.

Poster dispute

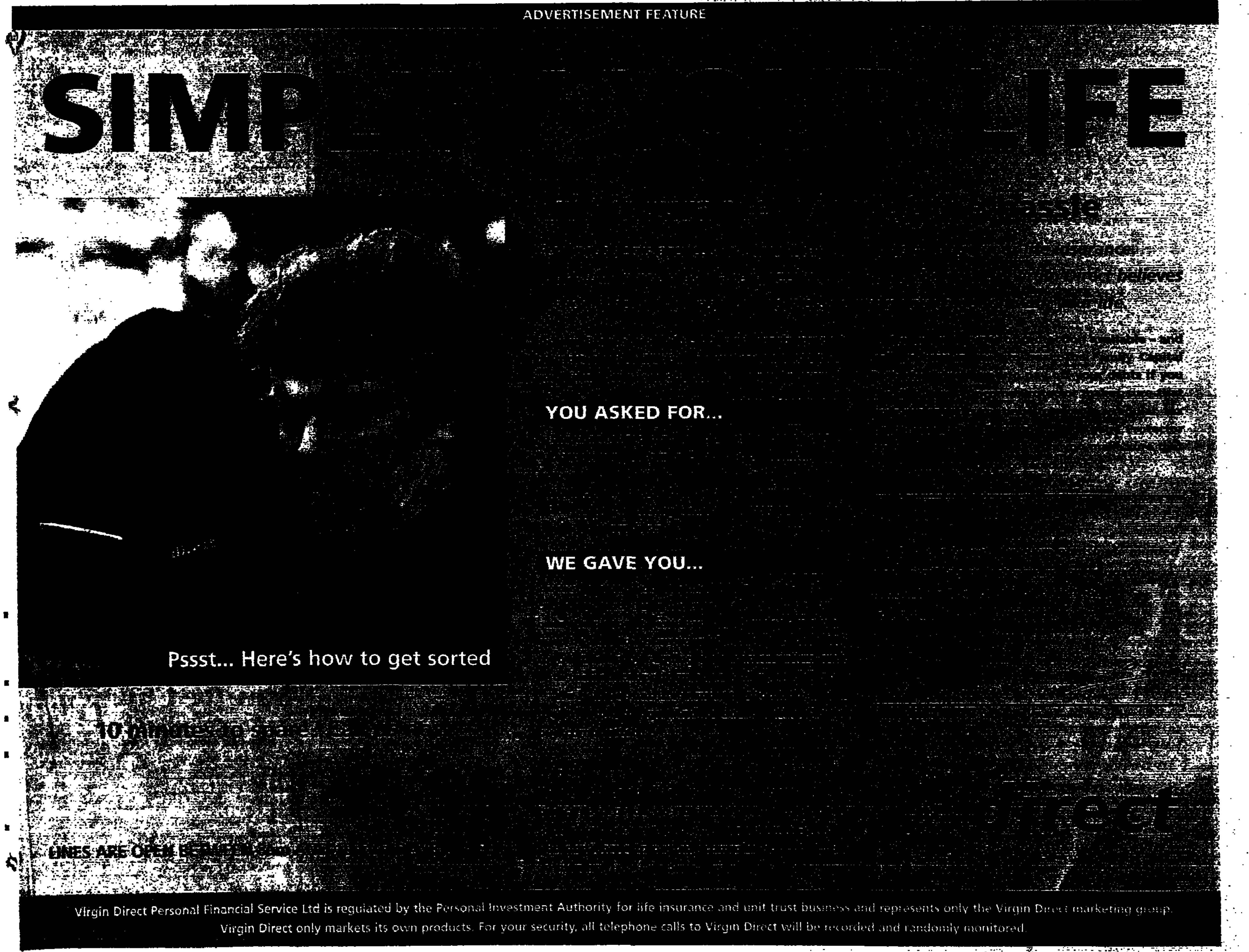
A poster of the Virgin Mary, advertising the Virgin records stores, has been condemned as blasphemous by Roman Catholic organisations in Ireland. The posters show a woman in a white veil and a blue T-shirt with "Virgin" across her chest.

Rail miles offer

Eurostar, which runs Channel Tunnel services to Paris and Brussels from London, announced a form of "rail miles" to reward all customers who buy a return ticket or two single tickets on its first and business-class services.

Mercury display

Freddie Mercury's life story will be told in photographs at a free public exhibition at the Royal Albert Hall later this month to mark the fifth anniversary of his death. The lead singer of Queen died in 1991 after contracting Aids.



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Commons dissent shows no sign of becoming a habit

At least one in four Tory backbenchers refused to support the Government on a three-line whip on Tuesday over the guns Bill. Apart from the Maastricht Bill, this was one of the largest rebellions of the Parliament. The mood on the Tory benches is often described as unusually fractious and rebellious. But that is not so. The highly publicised Euro-revolts since 1992 have exaggerated the underlying level of dissent, according to a new research paper, *Are Conservative MPs Revolting?*, by Philip Cowley and Philip Norton of the Centre for Legislative Studies at Hull University. From his eyrie round the corner from the library where Philip Larkin mused, Professor Norton has become the leading analyst of parliamentary dissent.

His researches have shown how the number and scale of rebellions by government backbenchers increased sharply during the 1970s — with dissenting votes in a fifth of divisions. There has been a lengthy academic debate about how far this reflected factors particular to the time (Edward Heath's leadership style, then the strains of continual economic crisis) or an underlying change in MPs' behaviour (with more independent minded, career politicians). In any event, the power of the whips was shown to have been less than believed and dissenters were not punished. Some American political scientists eagerly, and prematurely, celebrated the rise of Parliament.

The Cowley-Norton paper shows that the 1970s were not an aberration and did mark a change in attitudes, but rebelliousness has not increased or become a habit since then. Although MPs have been more prepared to defy their whips than before 1970, the scale and frequency of revolts have depended on the particular issues involved. In the three Parliaments of the Thatcher era, the number of divisions with dissenting votes was between 13 and 17 per cent, that is less than during the 1970s but much higher than the 1 to 2 per cent of the 1950s. Since 1992, rebellions have occurred in

[redacted]

14 per cent of divisions, probably inhibited in part because of the smallness of the Tory majority. Moreover, a third of the dissenters rebelled only once, and a further third fewer than ten times. Nearly two thirds of the revolts involved fewer than ten MPs.

Two fifths of the revolts in the current Parliament have been over Europe. All but four of the 39 rebellions involving more than 20 Tory MPs were over Maastricht. Of course, Europe has been highly divisive and damaging for the Tories since 1992, so it can hardly be brushed aside. But on non-European issues, the revolts were generally small scale. So the Major Government has had little trouble enacting most of its core economic and social programme, such as rail privatisation. The key exceptions were the defeats in December 1994 over the second stage of VAT rise on domestic fuel and the rebellion in 1993 over Sunday trading. This was like Tuesday's revolt on the guns Bill: both were outside the main party battle. On some similar issues, and on parts of the shops Bill, there have been unwhipped votes — which has reduced the public impact of dissent.

Of course John Major, a former whip, has been very sensitive to backbench opinion — too sensitive in the view of some of his critics — and has manoeuvred to avoid defeats and to minimise revolts. Policy has been amended and concessions offered, as on Tuesday over compensation for gun owners. At the extreme, legislation has been dropped, notably Royal Mail privatisation. But there has been less room to manoeuvre to modify proposals over Europe, and the protagonists here have been harder to placate. Overall, despite the deep Tory divisions over Europe, there has not been a collapse of party discipline. As Cowley and Norton argue, Mr Major "managed Parliament rather well".

PETER RIDDELL

Smith's widow promoted

THE widow of the late Labour leader John Smith, Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, has been appointed to the party's front bench in the Lords as spokeswoman for tourism.

In Labour's last reshuffle before the election, Baroness Gould of Potternewton will take up the new post of spokeswoman on women's issues. Lord Ewing, who clashed with the leadership over plans for devolution in Scotland, leaves the front bench "by mutual agreement".

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Backbench Tories vent beef ban anger on Hogg

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government faced strong protests from Tory MPs last night after Douglas Hogg admitted that there was little prospect of the European ban on British beef being lifted.

The Agriculture Secretary rejected repeated Tory and Ulster Unionist demands for the Government to introduce a new cattle cull to help to bring about a lifting of the ban.

An accelerated cull of 128,000 dairy cattle most at risk from BSE was agreed by John Major and other European leaders at the Florence summit in June as a necessary precondition for a lifting of the ban. However, Mr Hogg said yesterday that European countries faced such internal opposition to British beef from consumers and agriculture industries that in his judgment they would be unlikely to lift the ban if the cull went ahead.

"We are not going to get from the member states an absolute guaranteed timetable leading to dates when the ban will be lifted," Mr Hogg said during a Labour-initiated debate on the BSE crisis. "We aren't going to get that and I am not going to pretend that we are because if I did I would be deceiving the House."

He added that the most that EU countries would even consider was a partial lifting of the ban on some specific BSE-free herds.

However, many Tory MPs, including the former Cabinet minister **Tom King**, said it was now time to reconsider introducing the cull. Mr King opposed the cull last July but last night said: "Now we should seriously address the issue and address it seriously with the Commission."

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffordshire S) asked why Mr Hogg could not get a commitment from the European Commission that the ban would be lifted if the cull were introduced.

John Greenway (C, Ryedale) said: "There is growing support among farmers to go ahead with the cull so we hold to our side of the bargain. Surely it would be possible to get agreement with Franz Fischler [the European Agriculture Commissioner] to find a way of resolving this conundrum that unless we have the cull, we will not get the ban lifted."

Bill Cash (C, Stafford) accused Mr Hogg of using "weasel words". He said that the Government could get an absolute guarantee from Europe to lift the ban if Britain fulfilled its side of the Florence agreement. "If not, there will be serious trouble from this side of the House."

Sir Michael Spicer (C, Worcestershire S) said Mr Hogg was suggesting that Britain would get nothing in return for abiding by the Florence agreement. "Is it not time that we started to consider disruption again?" he asked, suggesting a "double whammy" with disruption over the 48-hour week.

Mr Hogg also faced criticism from Ulster MPs after he acknowledged that he had not yet submitted "detailed working papers" to try to secure a lifting of the ban for certified BSE-free herds, fed mainly on grass. This would have most impact in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Rev **Ian Paisley**, *the* Democratic Unionist leader, urged ministers to promise that they would submit detailed working papers and **Roy Beggs**, (UUP, Antrim E) asked: "Why have these papers not been completed and forwarded for consideration?"

Mr Hogg said that discussions were taking place with the Commission but no formal proposal had been laid down.

He also faced fierce criticism from Tory MPs during an earlier debate after he again rejected cross-party pleas for compensation for the cattle head de-boning industry, which has been put out of business by the BSE controls.

Peter Viggers (C, Gosport) said: "If it is fair and right to compensate the gun-owner for the loss of his gun, how much more must it be right to compensate someone who has been made bankrupt by government edict?"

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, attacked the Government for failing to reach its October and November targets for a lifting of the beef ban. He agreed that the ban should be lifted but added: "The Government has done too little too late."

HOGG—WELL HUNG BY NEXT ELECTION
RICHARD WILLSON

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on Hong Kong; backbench debate on road transport development. In the Lords: City of Edinburgh Council Order Confirmation Bill, report; Edinburgh Merchant Company Order Confirmation Bill, report; Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill, report; Theft (Amendment) Bill, second reading; debate on Sports Council decision to exclude angling from sports designated with enhanced status.

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White House aides fear ruin at hands of the 'ethics virus'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

FORGET notions of serving America and the adrenalin of working in the White House. Recruits to the new Clinton Administration should brace themselves to be bankrupted by legal bills running into hundreds of thousands of dollars from defending themselves in special investigations.

"I would advise anyone who comes into my job to make sure you have a lawyer on retainer from the day you walk in," says George Stephanopolous, President Clinton's senior adviser, who has announced that he is leaving his post.

According to an extensive investigation in the December issue of *Vanity Fair*, Mr Stephanopolous has run up $70,000 (£45,000) in legal bills from responding to a series of subpoenas, although he has not been charged with any wrongdoing. Stan Brand, his lawyer, warns that his bills could double if Mr Stephanopolous is subpoenaed during further investigations of the Clinton Administration.

Republicans as well as Democrats are targets of what Mr Brand calls "the ethics virus" — special investigations by the Office of Government Ethics, congressional committees or independent prosecutors. They may also feel called upon to defend themselves against charges of criminal behaviour made in the press under America's famously liberal libel laws.

Since Watergate, both parties have seen special investigations as powerful tools to harass their opponents, if not unseat them. Although the inquiries may be formally independent, they are frequently triggered by political accusations.

In the past two decades, 17 independent counsels have spent $114 million investigating breaches of ethics. New legislation, passed by Mr Clinton under Republican pressure, gave independent counsels even greater powers. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House, who has hurled many charges of ethical breaches against the Democrats, is himself under investigation on the same grounds.

The Clintons reportedly have racked up $2.4 million in legal bills, mainly on the Whitewater charges. They are believed still to owe more than half of the total.

It is the second tier of advisers, particularly those in specially-created posts, who are especially vulnerable. They can be summoned — and have personal papers confiscated — to assist investigations into their superiors' actions. Junior aides' salaries are typically between $100,000 and $150,000 a year; legal bills can quickly run to double that figure. Even if they are charged with nothing initially, they run the risk that the hearings may later charge them with perjury.

Josh Steiner, a 28-year-old Treasury aide investigated by the Office of Government Ethics, was threatened with a perjury charge during the Whitewater hearings. He was cleared, but not until his diary and personal letters had been published. Mr Steiner must be thankful that he picked no more embarrassing nickname for his lover than "Sweetpea".

New recruits are now under legal orders not to keep notes or personal diaries because they may be subpoenaed. Mr Stephanopolous advises future White House recruits to remember that "every word you ever say at any meeting to anyone at any time could come back to haunt you".

Mr Stephanopolous said he tried to shrug off the risk of continual legal conflict as an occupational hazard. "I always treat it like it is happening to somebody else," he told *Vanity Fair*. "To a fictional character named George."

REBECCA COOK/REUTER

Jonathan Schmitz, 26, leaves court in Pontiac, Michigan, after being convicted of second degree murder for killing a homosexual who told a talk show of a crush for him. The show pushed him over the edge, a jury decided

US builds laser with the power to kill missiles

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE US Air Force has ordered a military version of the jumbo jet equipped with a laser in its nose to shoot down enemy missiles hundreds of miles away. The technology is said to be "as revolutionary as the invention of gunpowder".

The innovation could herald a new era of military hardware evocative of Hollywood science fiction films. Scientists have been secretly working on the laser jet for more than a decade, following the "Star Wars" initiative.

If all goes according to plan, revamped Boeing 747s will have the capacity to destroy missiles such as the Scuds which Iraq used in the Gulf War. The lasers are said to be powerful enough to hit targets 250 miles away.

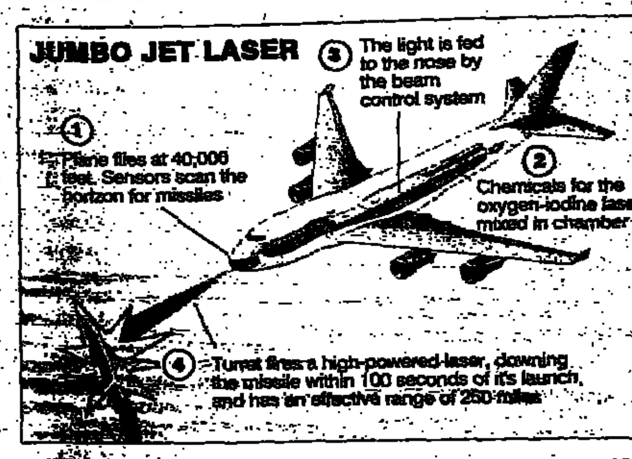
The plane will fly above 40,000ft and, it is claimed, would hit enemy rockets at the "booster" stage, the first 40 to 100 seconds of flight. Detection of missile launches will be conducted by on-board "seekers" and with the help of American satellites.

In development the laser-attack jet was called the YAL-1A, or Attack Laser Aircraft. Senior officers said that they hope to have it in action within six years and the Pentagon has made a provisional order for seven. They will be based at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico but may be deployed abroad. In moments of international tension it is likely that relay teams of the jets would be kept in the air around the clock. The cost of the planes, which have a forecast lifespan of 20 years, could be $5 billion (more than £3 billion). However, the project may prove vulnerable to budget cuts and the makers have been given a schedule of tests and demonstrations to keep before the full order is confirmed. The first live demonstration could be made in 2002.

General Ronald Fogleman, Chief of Staff of the US Air Force, said: "This is truly a revolutionary system."

A USAF factsheet claimed: "If the enemy were to launch a theatre ballistic missile, the Attack Laser would detect the booster while it is still powered and passing through the clouds. The laser would then destroy the missile, with the resulting debris falling back on enemy territory." Debris could include nuclear or chemical warheads. Geral King, head of Boeing's De fence and Space Group, saic "We consider it an honour t be given the responsibility c bringing this technology to a operational level." Boeing wo the Pentagon contract in asso ciation with Lockheed Marti and TRW Inc. A rival bi which was not successful, wa led by Rockwell Internationa and the carmaker Genera Motors.

Another Boeing executive Paul Shennum, told Busines Wire news agency: "Th media has reported increasin numbers of missiles in th arsenals of countries unfrien ly to the United States. Toda more than 20 countries inclu ing Iraq, Iran and Nort Korea have more than 10,00 theatre ballistic missiles i their arsenals. Many are als developing chemical, biolog cal or nuclear warheads."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Clinton gives up key budget battle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S steady march to the Right continued yesterday after he signalled a willingness to cooperate with Republicans and dropped his opposition to a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget.

Although stopping just short of endorsing an amendment he once described as a "gimmick", Mr Clinton was said by White House aides to have bowed to an inevitable political reality after last week's congressional elections gave Republicans more power in the Senate.

Despite opposition from the President, the measure passed the House last year but failed in the Senate by a single vote. After the Republican gain of two Senate seats last week both sides are convinced thatthe measure would now win the two-thirds majority needed in Congress next year before being sent to the individual states for ratification.

"If it sets a framework and says that in the 21st century, in the economy we're going to be living in, other things being equal, we ought always to be balancing our books, I agree with that," Mr Clinton said after meeting the congressional leadership, including Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker.

The President gave a warning that the constitutional amendment, a pillar of the Republican's *Contract with America* two years ago, must include a provision to avoid the balanced budget requirement if the country's economy should slide into recession. "You don't want to wind up with a Congress someday in a recession raising taxes or throwing unemployed people off healthcare," he said.

While Republicans offered an equally ambiguous display of unity, it has become clear that the path towards conciliation between the two sides is still peppered with obstacles after an election campaign in which Democrats tried to depict their opponents as extremist and uncaring.

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- Auto tuning with channel naming and sorting.
- Twin SCART sockets.
- Astra ID compatible receiver with 150 channels.

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PLUS FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM* When you spend £299 or more at Currys
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MITSUBISHI
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- 6 digital effect modes.
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MITSUBISHI 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV
66cm visible screen size.
Model 28AV1BD Was £799.99.
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SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £749.99

SAVE £10

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MITSUBISHI
25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 59cm visible screen size.
- Auto tuning with channel naming and sort.
- Twin SCART sockets.

Model 25AV1B.
Was £479.99.

CURRYS PRICE £469.99

MITSUBISHI
25" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV
- 59cm visible screen size.
- Fastext for easy access to all Teletext services.
- 6 digital effect modes.
- Base cabinet with integral speaker.

Model 25AV1BD.
Was £699.99.

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CURRYS PRICE £649.99

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Model 25AV1BS.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
CURRYS PRICE £649.99

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

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59cm visible screen size.
Model 25AV1BS.
PLUS 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus
- Tape optimiser.
- VideoPlus for easy programming.
- Long play facility.

Model HS55OV.

CURRYS PRICE £799

MITSUBISHI 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext
66cm visible screen size.
Model 28AV1BD.
PLUS 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus
VideoPlus for easy programming.
Model 550.
Was £1149. In-store Price £1079.
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
£150 VOUCHER PRICE £999

SAVE £20

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

MITSUBISHI
4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus.
- Tape optimiser.
- Index, time and blank search.
- VideoPlus for easy programming.

Model 550. Was £349.99.

CURRYS PRICE £329.99

SAVE £20

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

MITSUBISHI
Long Play Video with VideoPlus.
- Auto set-up.
- VideoPlus and PDC for easy and reliable programming.

Model 621. Was £249.99.

CURRYS PRICE £229.99

MITSUBISHI
4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus.
- VideoPlus and PDC for easy and reliable recording.
- Long play increases recording time of tapes.

Model 651. Was £379.99.
SAVE £30

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

CURRYS PRICE £349.99

*When you spend £299 or more in a single visit to Currys and take out a new subscription to any Sky programming package for a year, you will receive a Matsui RD600 satellite receiver and appropriate dish for your area for free. This offer is by redemption only. You will not be charged for installation. A charge may be made if additional bracketing and cabling is required. A one off £12 connection fee is due with your first subscription. You should be 18 or over and meet status requirements, one offer per household. Not valid with any other offer. Offer ends Saturday 23rd November 1996. Sky promotional offers are not open to previous or existing subscribers or their households.

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THE TIMES 2

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1996

Revolt over pension mis-selling delays

By Marianne Curphey

THREE years after a review into the mis-selling of personal pensions began, only 1 per cent of the 500,000 most urgent cases have been offered compensation, it emerged yesterday.

Consumer groups, including some of the country's largest trade unions, expressed alarm at the delay after figures were published for the first time showing that only 6,227 people had been offered financial redress.

They accused pension providers and the trustees of occupational pension schemes of dragging their feet, and called for the offenders to be named and disciplined.

The figures, from the Personal Investment Authority, were published at the same time as the City's most senior watchdog, the Securities and Investment Board (SIB), unveiled plans to speed up the compensation process.

An estimated 1.5 million people may have been persuaded to leave their lucrative employers' occupational schemes and contribute to a personal pension instead. Much of the mis-selling dates to the late 1980s, and some of the worst-affected were nurses, teachers and miners.

SIB yesterday described the progress of the review as "unacceptably slow" and said firms had used unduly elaborate inquiry forms. Priority cases were due to have been reviewed by the end of this year, but just 5 per cent — a total of 24,237 cases — have been completed, and only £49.9 million in compensation has been offered. The total compensation and costs bill could run into billions.

SIB said occupational schemes had found it impossible to cope with the number of highly-detailed inquiries from insurance firms and financial advisers and as a result it was reducing the number of questions an occupational scheme must answer from 230 to 8.

The new guidance also reduces the number of inquiries firms have to make and simplifies calculations. However, concern has been raised that consumers may receive less in compensation under the new system.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said all those firms "with a sense of responsibility" would now be able to carry out most of their case reviews without further delays. Those who persisted in "dragging their feet" risked the possibility of regulatory action. He said: "Investors who were mis-sold personal pensions and suffered loss are entitled to redress and we are determined they will get it."

Confidential PIA documents leaked two weeks ago named Prudential, the UK's largest life insurance company, as the worst offender in dealing with the review.

The Trades Union Congress expressed concern that no new deadlines were announced. SIB said regulatory bodies such as the PIA would be setting "realistic new target dates" once firms had time to digest the guidance.

Joanne Segars, TUC pensions officer, said: "New deadlines should be set and those companies who fail to meet them should face discipline."

The Association of British Insurers said insurance firms were determined to complete the review as quickly as possible and compensate people where this was due. Figures showing progress of the review will now be published every three months.

Pennington, page 29

CHRIS HARRIS

Sir Andrew Large, SIB chairman, is determined mis-selling victims will be repaid quicker

East Midlands agrees £1.3bn Dominion bid

By Oliver August

EAST Midlands Electricity yesterday agreed to a £1.3 billion takeover by Dominion Resources, the US energy group. In overnight negotiations Dominion had increased its bid from 608p per share to 670p.

A third of the regional electricity companies in England and Wales are now set to be in American hands.

Dominion said it did not expect a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But market-makers remained sceptical and East Midlands shares closed at 625½p, up 14½p, well below the 670p offer.

Meanwhile board members from both companies began negotiations with Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator.

Sir Nigel Rudd, the East Midlands chairman, said: "We are recommending Dominion Resources' offer because it represents fair value for an excellent business, which has successfully differentiated itself from the sector. As a management team we have always put shareholders' and customers' interests at the top of our agenda."

The 670p offer represents a 25 per cent premium on the company's closing share price of 537.5p on November 5, the day before Dominion announced it was considering making a bid.

Thomas Capps, chairman and chief executive of the US group, said: "We have been impressed by East Midlands Electricity management's record and we look forward to working with them to continue the development of the company."

Dominion supplies the US state of Virginia with energy as well as selected regions in South America. It also has a financial services division which is primarily concerned with mortgage lending.

East Midlands Electricity will be the fourth Rec to be taken over by an American company and leaves just three of the 12 companies, privatised in 1990, either independent or not facing a bid. The US-owned total could rise to five if a separate hostile bid by CE Electric for Northern Electric is successful.

John Battle, Labour's Shadow Energy and Industry Minister, said 9.3 million households would be buying their electricity from American-owned companies if the Northern takeover went through.

He said: "Whilst Labour has no opposition to overseas takeovers it is absolutely vital that these industries do not move beyond the reach of the regulator. US-owned companies must face regulation on a par with UK-owned companies."

Pennington, page 29
Shake-up urged, page 32

GOING, GOING, GONE

	Price	Value	Status
E Midlands	622p		£1.3 bn bid from Dominion Resources
London	606p	£1.06bn	Yet to receive bid
Yorkshire	731p	£1.16bn	Yet to receive bid
Northern	593p	£599m	Survived Trafalgar bid, but CE bids
Southern	675p	£1746m	Bid from National Power blocked
Seeboard			Taken over by Central and South West
Swalec			Now part of Hyder with Welsh Water
Eastern			Now part of Hanson
S Western			Agreed bid from Southern of Atlanta
Midlands			Taken over by Avon Energy
Manweb			Taken over by ScottishPower
Norweb			Taken over by North West Water

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3926.9	(-7.4)
Yield	4.02%	
FTSE All share	1936.77	(-2.02)
Nikkei	20979.44	(-226.99)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6247.03	(-19.01)*
S&P Composite	728.62	(-0.94)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 3/16%*	(5 3/16%)
Long Bond	100 6/16*	(100 23/32)
Yield	6.46%*	(6.45%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 5/16%	(6 9/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	108 15/16	(109 5/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6560*	(1.6468)
London:		
$	1.6532	(1.6467)
DM	2.4909	(2.4686)
FFr	8.4214	(8.3518)
SFr	2.0983	(2.0756)
Yen	184.53	(183.33)
£ Index	91.3	(90.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5055*	(1.5073)
FFr	5.0877*	(5.0959)
SFr	1.2680*	(1.2685)
Yen	111.41*	(111.48)
$ Index	96.2	(96.1)

Tokyo close Yen 111.52

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$22.95	($22.50)

GOLD

London close	$384.15	($381.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Big picture

Westinghouse Electric unveiled one of America's largest corporate restructurings, with a plan to separate its media interests, which include CBS television, from $4.6 billion of industrial operations. Page 29

In town

A Labour government would discourage the development of out-of-town shopping centres and give preference to traditional high street development plans. Page 32

Jobless total falls below two million

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S headline unemployment total dipped below two million for the first time for five years yesterday and government ministers forecast that the long fall is set to continue.

Ministers used the new fall to renew their attack on European job policies, especially the EU's 48-hour working time directive. Labour, meanwhile, attacked the figures as a "conjuring trick".

The actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit in October fell 126,486 to 1,977,235 — the first time the unadjusted, or headline, unemployment total has been below two million since early 1991.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, generally taken as a better guide to the trend, is expected to follow suit within the next month or so, though yesterday's fall of 40,800, while larger than expected, kept the adjusted total above two million mark at 2,030,000.

Adjusted claimant count unemployment fell for both men and women, and in every region around the country, taking the proportion out of work to 7.2 per cent. The overall drop was the biggest since December 1994, taking unemployment to its lowest level since February 1991.

Whitehall officials suggested there were a number of special factors behind the fall, which they said might be overstated by as much as 10,000 — a number they expect to see return to the count next month.

John Major said he had "no doubts" that the fall would continue, while his deputy, Michael Heseltine, said the "massive" drop indicated the strength of Britain's "sparkling" economic performance.

However, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that while unemployment was falling, Britain's workforce was declining too — a "Tory conjuring trick" showing the Government has "fixed the figures".

Ministers' welcome, page 1
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Numbers game, page 31

Fed leaves funds rate unchanged

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

AMERICAN interest rates were left unchanged yesterday by the Federal Open Market Committee, the outcome expected by the markets. The Fed Funds rate, which banks charge each other for overnight money, remains at 5.25 per cent.

The meeting coincided with figures yesterday showing a modest rise in American producer prices in October of 0.4 per cent, weaker than Wall Street analysts had expected. The rate of core producer price inflation fell 0.3 per cent, a figure which confirmed that inflationary pressures remain subdued.

The US central bank clearly saw little merit in this week's call from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to take out "some insurance" against higher inflation through raising rates.

Bank campaigns, page 28
Tempus, page 30

Halifax raises its fixed rates

By Anne Ashworth

THE Halifax Building Society is withdrawing its existing fixed-rate mortgage terms in response to October's increase in base rates.

The Halifax, which is Britain's biggest provider of home loans with 2.5 million borrowers, is leaving its variable rate unchanged at 6.99 per cent. But fixed and discounted rates for two to five years will start at 5.29 per cent for a two-year loan for existing customers moving home, compared with 4.99 per cent.

Although the rates will be less keen than previously, cashbacks of as much as £10,000 are still available. The society, which is set to shed its mutual status and become a bank next year, has pledged not to change its variable rate until after the Budget this month.

The Halifax's move follows the Nationwide's decision on Tuesday to increase its standard variable rate by 0.25 percentage points to 6.74 per cent. Other larger lenders have declined to raise their rates for fear of damaging the property market. Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, said: "With the continued recovery in the housing market and the recent base rate rise, we are positioning our mortgage rates at a sensible level to avoid over-stimulation in the market. This should be the position of any responsible lender to ensure that the boom-bust cycle of the late 1980s/early 1990s is avoided."

The society is abolishing unpopular redemption penalties for early repayment on discounted variable-rate loans and only applying these fees on fixed-rate offers if the mortgage is redeemed in the fixed-rate period.

There has been criticism of the lock-in periods being imposed on borrowers who were obliged to stay faithful to the same lender for as long as seven years, or pay a fee of three to six months' interest, or a percentage of the total loan.

The Halifax is expected to be capitalised at £10 billion when it goes public next year.

Sir Chips defiant as Hambros recovers

Hambro: stepping down

By Jason Nissé

SIR CHIPS KESWICK, who next year takes over from Lord Hambro as chairman of Hambros, yesterday rejected pressure for the merchant bank to sell its 52 per cent stake in Hambro Countrywide. He said Hambros may even raise its stake in the estate agency chain.

Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund, has been pressing Hambros to sell its holding in Countrywide ever since it took a 3 per cent stake in the merchant bank in September. Yesterday, Michael Sorkin, the Hambros deputy chairman, attacked Jim Mellon, the head of Regent, saying: "We have not found any support for him in our shareholder base." Mr Sorkin added that it was an odd time to sell Countrywide shares when it had just returned to profit and there were opportunities for Hambros to sell its services to Countrywide's 70,000 customers.

However, the Regent camp rejected Hambros attack and claimed that it had the support of some of the UK's largest shareholders for its campaign to shake up Hambros. Sir Chips has been leading a restucturing of the company, and among the changes are his elevation to the chairmanship, replacing Lord Hambro who will be 67 next year.

Another will be redundancies for up to 100 Hambros staff in the next six months as the company cuts its costs. Hambros was able to reveal a return to profit in the six months to September 30, showing a pre-tax profit of £35 million (£7.7 million loss). Earnings per share were 7.2p (10.9p loss). An unchanged dividend of 2.5p is payable on December 23.

The recovery came from a return to profits at Countrywide, the absence of large scale loan write-offs and a £15 million profit from the sale of Hambros' stake in Thorn Lighting, a management buyout. Operating profits in banking fell from £15.9 million to £10 million. The shares fell 7½p to 245p.

Tempus, page 30

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Eurotunnel begins to see daylight

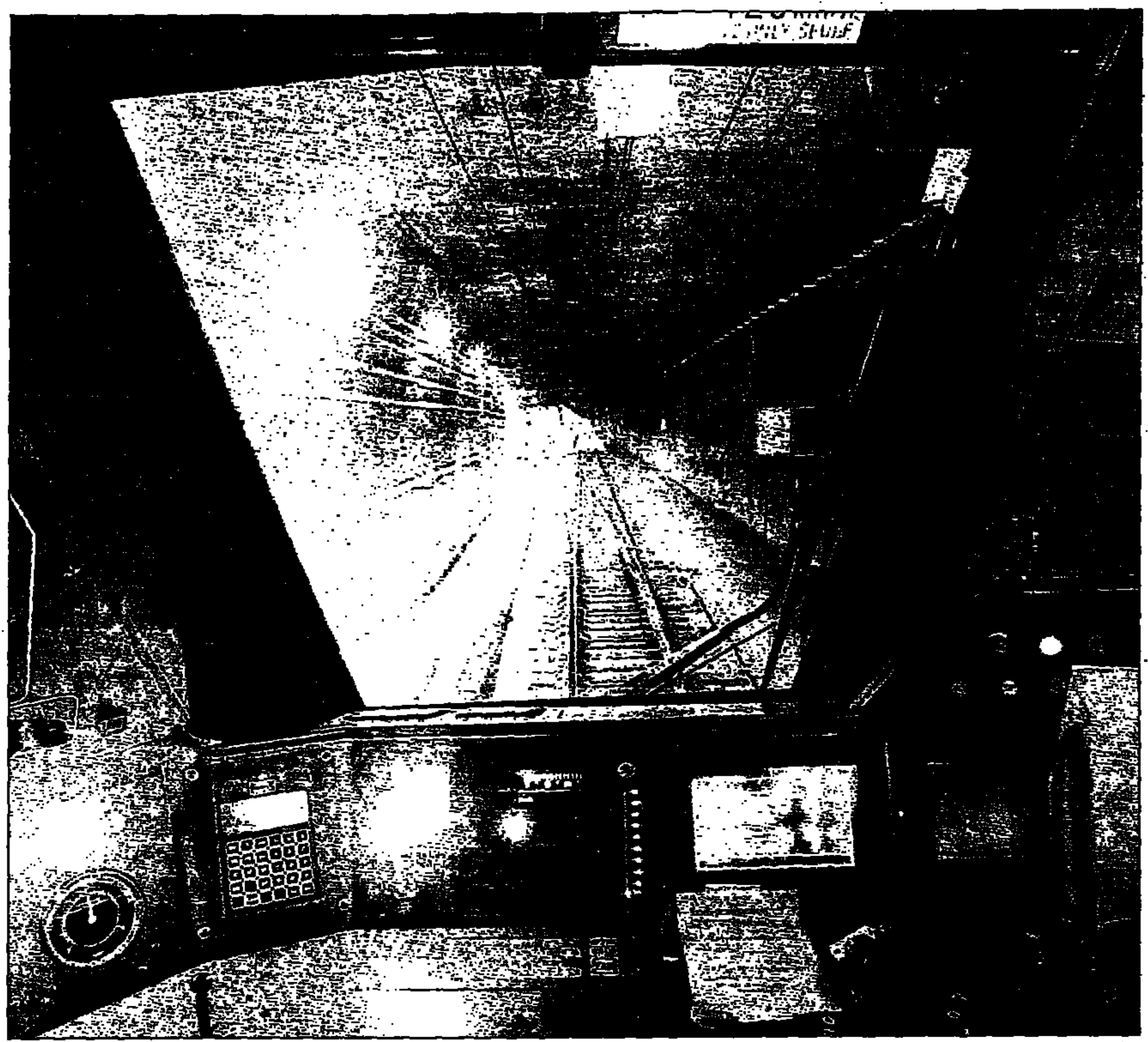
By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL underlined the growing commercial success of Le Shuttle passenger and freight train services yesterday with record three-month turnover of £138.4 million for the third quarter of the year, a rise of 70 per cent.

The £362.1 million total for the year to date is close to double the £185.8 million earned in the same period last year, compared with a target of increasing sales by 50 per cent in 1996.

The company is also believed to be on course for a strong fourth quarter with traffic levels on some days in October and early November exceeding the high summer peaks in August. The ferry companies have been hit by strong winds and rough seas, which have encouraged many passengers to put their cars on the train instead.

Last month the company claimed that it is now carrying "approaching 50 per cent" of the cars travelling between Dover or Folkestone and Calais. Eurotunnel is still trying to persuade its banks to agree to a £4 billion refinancing of its debts, which have threatened to put it out of business, in spite of the rapid growth in business.



The way ahead looks better for Eurotunnel as increased traffic brought record third-quarter turnover of £138.4 million

Bank of England steps up campaign for tighter money

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

SPECULATION that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will come under pressure to raise interest rates again increased yesterday with confirmation that the Bank of England pushed aggressively for tighter money in late September.

The minutes of the September 23 monetary meeting published yesterday, showed that the Chancellor had rejected the Bank's advice to raise interest rates then, only to give in to the Bank's wishes a month later.

The language employed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, was emphatic. In recent months, he had expressed a preference for higher rates but, at the late September meeting, this had hardened into official advice. On top of this, Mr George added the warning that, if Mr Clarke failed to act, an even larger rise in rates might be needed. The Governor said the longer a tightening was delayed, the sharper it would eventually need to be. But he also added that, if the buoyancy of the last month's data were to be confirmed over the weeks leading up to the October meeting, it might be necessary to tighten policy more sharply. Economists at NatWest Markets said: "In other words, hurry up and raise rates by 0.25 per cent, or we will be asking for 0.50 per cent."

Mr Clarke raised rates by 0.25 per cent to 6 per cent on October 30 but the Bank said in its *Inflation Report*, published last week, that rates would have to rise again in due course if the Government wanted to hit its target for underlying inflation of 2.5 per cent or less.

The report appeared to imply that the Bank regards the 0.25 per cent rise in rates as only a first instalment and that it will seek further rate increases. The Bank's increasingly hawkish tone was repeated earlier this week when Mr George said sterling's recent strength would help to bear down on inflation in the short term, but was no substitute for higher interest rates because it had little impact on domestic demand.

Speculation of further rate rises is likely to be heightened — at least in the short-term — if today's inflation figures show, as the City expects, that underlying inflation rose to 3 per cent in October, boosted partly by higher petrol prices.

But many economists believe October's inflation rate may prove to be a temporary peak and that inflation will resume its downward trend, courtesy of subdued industrial costs and prices. Mr Clarke and Mr George meet again to discuss rates on December 11.

Tempus, page 30

CU shares rise despite dip in profits

By Marianne Curphey

SHARES of Commercial Union rose 6p to 645p yesterday despite a fall in the composite insurer's nine-month pre-tax profit, from £384 million to £348 million.

Strong growth in Europe, particularly France and The Netherlands, helped to offset the effects of a £62 million rise in weather claims in the UK and US. IRA bombs in London and Manchester cost CU £9 million.

John Carter, chief executive, said profits in France rose 50 per cent, to £84 million, and had benefited from the contribution of the Abeille companies acquired in 1994. In The Netherlands, Delta Lloyd profits grew 21 per cent, to £127 million. Worldwide life operations, 43 per cent of CU's business, produced profits 11 per cent higher at £178 million. New annual life premiums increased 31 per cent to £2.2 billion and single premiums by 15 per cent.

General insurance conditions remained competitive in the UK, which accounts for 10 per cent of worldwide premiums. CU's general insurance premium income fell 12 per cent, to £1.04 billion. However, CU said there were signs that competition was moderating in motor insurance. Operating earnings per share were 33.1p (40.7p).

CU hopes to set up a life assurance operation in the Czech Republic next year.

Carter: French success

Court told of 'bird's eye view of forgery in progress'

By Jon Ashworth

DOCUMENTS recovered from the offices of Robert Feld, former chief executive of Resort Hotels, provided "a bird's-eye view of a forgery in progress", a court was told yesterday.

Detectives from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) discovered NatWest Bank confirmations, in which strips of white paper with "nil" typed on them had been pasted over debts of £3 million and £5 million. The altered documents were then faxed to Coopers & Lybrand, which was preparing a circular to accompany a £20.6 million rights issue.

Details emerged at Middlesex Crown Court, where Mr Feld, 43, of Rottingdean, East Sussex, denies 16 counts of making misleading statements and using false instruments, relating to the 1992 rights issue. Anthony Evans, QC, for the SFO, said the documents in Mr Feld's offices had provided "a bird's eye view of a forgery in progress". They had helped to mislead Coopers & Lybrand into omitting loans of £8 million from a statement of indebtedness included in the rights issue circular.

Mr Evans told the jury that Mr Feld "knew and was responsible for" a string of falsities, including a false profit forecast, and overstated cash balances. Resort's indebtedness was understated by more than £9 million. Mr Evans said: "A healthier picture was given in that circular than was justified. It was done to persuade the shareholders to take up their rights."

Mr Feld, the court heard, asked Midland Bank in writing to transfer £4 million to Resort from another company, the day before Resort's indebtedness and cash balance were to be calculated for inclusion in the circular. The money was transferred back a day later — an act Mr Feld later attributed to a "bank error".

The court was told of the long-standing business relationship between Resort and Johnson Fry, which sponsored a number of companies under the *Business Expansion Scheme* (BES) with a view to purchasing hotels for Resort to manage. In early 1992, Johnson Fry passed £1.15 million raised from subscribers to two new BES companies to Resort. On Mr Feld's instructions, the money was transferred to reduce the overdraft on Resort's current account at NatWest Bank. This reduced Resort's level of debt prior to the rights issue. Mr Evans said: "The £1.15 million should never have been in the same account as Resort's money." The trial continues today.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shanks & McEwan wins £9m order

SHANKS & McEWAN, the waste management group, has received an order worth up to £9 million over three years to incinerate rendered meat and bone meal from cattle over 30 months old. It is the first such order to be made after the Government's decision to eliminate all cattle over that age from the food chain because of concerns about BSE. The company will incinerate at least 45,000 tonnes of meat and bone at a temperature of up to 1,100C.

None of the material will come from cattle showing any signs of BSE, the company emphasised; that is handled at other facilities. The company expects the incinerating to begin before the end of this year. Michael Averill, chief executive of Shanks & McEwan, said: "We are delighted that our high-technology facilities have been selected to provide treatment of this material. Some investment in handling facilities is necessary and is already well advanced." The work will be performed at the Fawley high-temperature incinerator of Rechem International, a subsidiary of Shanks & McEwan.

Jacobs looks at Ropner

ROPNER, the troubled engineering and shipping concern, is in takeover talks with Jacobs that could bring an end to its 120-year history as an independent company. Jacobs yesterday increased its stake in Ropner to just under 10 per cent and said that any offer was likely to be settled in shares rather than cash. It added that any valuation would take into account Ropner's recent trading statement, where it gave a warning that its year-end pre-tax profits would be almost halved to £2.6 million. Ropner's shares rose 6p to 107p yesterday, giving it a market value of £25 million.

'Intranet' alliance

BRITISH Telecom, MCI — the second largest American long-distance phone company — and Microsoft yesterday announced an expanded alliance to develop a range of global "intranet", or private Internet, services. The alliance follows an agreement reached in January by MCI and Microsoft to develop a broad range of online, Internet and networking services, and plans revealed last week by BT to buy MCI for $20 billion. The intranet services will include Web-searching, electronic mail, software distribution and information management tools.

Borthwicks slumps

INTERIM profits at Borthwicks, the natural flavours company, were halved after poor summer weather depressed sales of ice cream and drinks. In the six months to September 28, pre-tax profit was £652,000, compared with £1.26 million a year ago. Turnover was down 5.8 per cent, to £16.3 million. The interim dividend, payable on January 24, is being maintained at 0.5p per share. Earnings per share were 0.78p, compared with 1.75p a year ago. The company said there are some signs of restocking by UK customers, which indicates better prospects for the second half.

Cirqual beats forecast

CIRQUAL, the specialist engineering company listed on the Alternative Investment Market, beat its prospectus forecast yesterday with maiden pre-tax profits of £2.96 million (£2.52 million) for the year to August 31. Cirqual said it has made big gains in market share since its formation last year, and is looking for more acquisitions. Its earnings were 12p per share (10.2p), and it is paying a dividend of 0.9p. Since its year end, it has bought Wollaston Engineering for £7.5 million and has won an order from British Aerospace to convert 25 passenger aircraft to carry freight. The shares rose 10p to a 157½p high.

Volex shift pays off

A SHIFT towards telecommunications helped Volex, the cable company, to protect its margins in the six months to September 30. Exposure to the higher-margin phone cables market helped halfway pre-tax profits to grow 23 per cent to £6.32 million on sales down 4.5 per cent to £85.5 million. Ken Hooper, finance director, said the growth had come in spite of a stagnant performance from its non-cable assemblies division. There are no plans for its disposal but Volex would be willing to consider an offer at the right price. An interim of 7.35p (7p) is due on February 4.

Greenwich green light

GREENWICH Lloyd's Underwriting, the newly formed Lloyd's members' agency, has received formal consent from Lloyd's to act as a members' agent from January 1, 1997. Angus Gilroy, a partner in Binder Hamlyn, has been appointed a non-executive director. Greenwich has been formed by the merger of four Lloyd's members' agents: RF Kershaw, Castle Members' Agents, Holman MacLeod and Marlborough Underwriting Agency. The agency has £487 million in underwriting capacity under management for the 1996 account.

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Applications must be received no later than Monday, December 9, 1996. Applicants and travellers using the free ticket must be aged 18 or over. Only one application for a free ticket voucher per household is permitted. Booking must be made between December 6, 1996 and April 16, 1997 and a minimum of 10 days before the intended date of travel. Travel must be completed by April 30, 1997.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR TODAY'S EUROSTAR TOKEN

CHANGING TIMES

Bruntcliffe wins in the High Court

By Jason Nissé

BRUNTCLIFFE Aggregates, the quarry company, has won a $1.25 million judgment in the High Court against its large shareholder, Mineral & General Investments.

Mr Justice Lloyd has told M&GI, based in the Channel Islands, that it must pay Bruntcliffe all but $50,000 of the price agreed between them in the sale of assets in Lorasen Coal, an American company, in 1994. M&GI had argued the assets were not worth the value put on them by Bruntcliffe, but is now having to pay the price in four instalments, plus interest and costs.

Bruntcliffe disenfranchised M&GI's 9.3 per cent stake in the company in December 1994 after it claimed it was not satisified with the replies to a notice under Section 212 of the Companies Act requiring M&GI to disclose its ownership. Bruntcliffe believes the shares are held by Anthony Hanson and Paul Kaye, two former Bruntcliffe directors who want to oust Mike Wallis, the chief executive from the board.

M&GI is attempting to have the share re-enfranchised in a case that will test, for the first time in UK courts, the legal basis for disenfranchisement.

European exports lift ABI Leisure

By Alasdair Murray

ABI LEISURE GROUP, the caravan manufacturer, yesterday said that growth in European exports had helped the company to report a 19.5 per cent increase in full-year profits, to £5 million.

The company's turnover grew 8 per cent, to £92.4 million. The company manufactures about 15,000 caravans a year, its models ranging from touring caravans to leisure homes.

European exports advanced to £41.4 million, contributing 45 per cent of total turnover, the company announced. It added that it had also increased its share of the touring caravan market in the United Kingdom, helped by an improvement in its dealer network. However, sales of French caravaning holidays in the United Kingdom fell due to the recent strength of the franc.

George Shiels, the chairman, described the company's performance this year as "encouraging". However, he added that the increase in exports had shifted the profit balance to the second half of the financial year.

The company will increase the final dividend by 18 per cent, to 3.47p, payable on December 3.

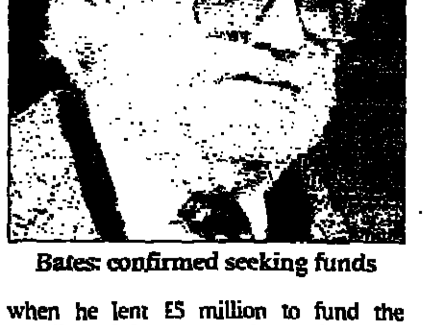
Chelsea wants £30m for rebuilding

By Jason Nissé

KEN BATES, the chairman of Chelsea Village, confirmed yesterday that the company, which owns Chelsea, the Premiership football team, is attempting to raise £30 million to complete the redevelopment of its ground at Stamford Bridge.

News of the fundraising was revealed in *The Times* a month ago when it emerged that the late Matthew Harding had been in talks with potential backers, including George Soros, the investor. The money will be used to complete the development of the southern complex, which will include a hotel and offices, and rebuild the west stand at the ground.

Alan Shaw, company secretary of Chelsea, said the company was not necessarily talking to the same parties as those approached by Mr Harding. "We don't know who Matthew was talking to, no one approached us," said Mr Shaw. He added it had not been decided how much of the £30 million would be new shares and how much would be debt.



Bates: confirmed seeking funds

Mr Harding, who was deputy chairman, first became involved in the club when he lent £5 million to fund the building of the new north stand. His 25 per cent stake is in the hands of trustees for his family, and could be sold in the wake of the resignation of Peter Middleton, the former chief executive of Lloyd's of London, from Chelsea's board last week. Mr Middleton, who now works for Salomon Brothers, the US bank, represented Mr Harding's interests on Chelsea's board. Mr Bates yesterday described Mr Middleton as having "delusions of grandeur".

Despite the boardroom rows and apparent need to raise new money, Chelsea shares hit a new high yesterday of 119½p, up 2p, giving it a market value of £160 million.

Rysaffe, the Hong Kong company which is Chelsea's largeat shareholder, confirmed selling 100,000 shares in the company at prices ranging from 120p a share to 125p this week. This is the latest in a stream of disposals by Rysaffe, which has seen its stake in the club fall from 66 per cent to 38.3 per cent since Chelsea floated on the AIM this year.

Mr Bates holds proxies from Rysaffe to vote its shares for any motion he proposes, but says he does not know who the beneficial owner is. Companies wishing to know who owns their shares can send out notices under Section 212 of the Companies Act and disenfranchise the shares if unhappy with the answer.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	B S
Australia $	2.18	2.02	Malta	0.626	0.
Austria Sch	18.44	16.94	Netherlds Gld	2.932	2.
Belgium Fr	54.06	49.76	New Zealand $	2.46	
Canada $	2.302	2.142	Norway Kr	10.96	1
Cyprus Cyp£	0.789	0.734	Portugal Esc	262.00	24
Denmark Kr	10.10	9.30	S Africa Rd	8.23	
Finland Mkk	8.04	7.39	Spain Pta	215.00	20
France Fr	8.78	8.13	Sweden Kr	11.56	1
Germany Dm	2.63	2.42	Switzerland Fr	2.22	
Greece Dr	407	382	Turkey Lira	168500	16
Hong Kong $	13.38	12.38	USA $	1.744	
Iceland	115	95			
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.97			
Israel Shk	5.63	4.98			
Italy Lira	2605	2450			
Japan Yen	198.00	182.00			

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Different rates apply to trav cheques. Rates as at close of tr yesterday.

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☐ Dilemma over US power bids ☐ Looking forward to Eurotelecoms floats ☐ Breaking the cosy pensions club

Lang's tangled American wires

☐ THE American bid for yet another of our regional electricity companies may seem to be all over bar the shouting, after a public debate on the value of the company and an equally private deal between the bidder and the board. But it does present the Government with a dilemma.

Dominion Resources of Virginia is a staid, well-financed utility renowned for its caution. By contrast, the offer for Northern Electric, from yet another American company, CalEnergy, has aroused anxious calls for a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. CalEnergy is on rather less firm financial ground, much of its borrowings effectively junk bonds. The market thinks Dominion likely to succeed, and CalEnergy to be referred.

This is probably what the Government would prefer. The last few utilities bids have had a bad run of luck, from the bids by the two generators for their own regional distributors to the rival offers for South West Water, all blocked by Government decree. The odd one should now go through, both to preserve the fiction of a free market and because checks on both might cause matching problems for mergers such as BT-MCI and British Airways-American Airlines in the US. The problem is how Dominion can be distinguished from CalEnergy.

Ian Lang cannot simply say that he does not much like the look of the latter, and ship them back to Nebraska where they came from. On the other hand, distinguishing between the two companies' finances raises the risk of an outraged CalEnergy taking action in the courts. It has been suggested that he may rely on the East Midlands bid being agreed and Northern's contested. This is nonsense, first because a Northern agreement is not out of the question and also because it runs contrary to competition policy that stresses the primacy of shareholders' rights against those of incumbent management.

All this is important because of the mass of other American companies thought to be eyeing up the three remaining independent regional companies. It also raises the question why two of those three have never been bid for. London in particular is enormously attractive, having low investment costs because so much of the wires are under ground and cannot blow over. Yorkshire, however, is not best placed to benefit from economic recovery and has shown itself particularly concerned about free competition in 1998.

Why are these two still the wallflowers? The best answer is that both share their territory with overlapping water companies, with whom a quick and easy merger could be arranged if hostiles appear on the horizon. But with the available targets fast disappearing, this might not be enough to prevent the Americans from trying.

Ringing endorsement

☐ IT IS true. The Italians do talk a lot, on the phone at least. This is not a crude racial stereotype but a fact, and here are the figures to prove it. Vodafone and Cellnet see about 40 minutes a month use from their UK retail customers. Italian phone users use their mobiles almost twice as much, clocking up 70 minutes a month.

This may be a reflection of the novelty of such phones in Italy — they are still a fashion statement there, my dear, and owners pay the highest rates in Europe. But it bodes well for next autumn's sale of Telecom Italia, the state-controlled but stock market-quoted telephone operator. So too should the roaring success of Deutsche Telekom, which closes today after having to be increased in size by 20 per cent to satisfy demand. But in fact the knock-on effect for the Italians will be limited because their float is a secondary offering that will not go to anything like the huge premium expected for DT.

The real impact of the huge German issue, worth upwards of $12 billion, will be on next spring's flotation of France Télécom. Barclays de Zoete Wedd put a value of $30 billion on that company in the summer, a sum that can only have crept up since. The French Government is likely to sell 25 per cent at first, and this, like Deutsche, is another of those must-have issues for big investors.

What will be interesting is how closely the Deutsche model, itself based on the British method of selling state assets, will be followed by the French. The value of Deutsche Telekom has been raised by pricing off the strong retail demand, as much as half the shares likely to go to private investors, which means institutions will at first be left short. Where Deutsche differs from BT, which started the telecoms privatisation ball rolling in 1984, is that the shares have not been priced too attractively for institutions that will be long-term holders. The French, who tend to take a proprietorial view of their national champions, could well do the same.

Questionable approach

☐ DID some bright spark seriously believe that trustees of pension schemes would willingly sit down and answer 230 complex questions about a former scheme member who had ill-advisedly moved his fund to a personal pension? Someone (or more likely a committee of someones) at the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds was keeping very quiet as the Securities and Investments Board announced the scrapping of this ridiculously unwieldy questionnaire.

The most charitable assumption about those 230 questions is that their authors were desperately trying to be fair to the investors whose compensation they were trying to calculate.

One might less charitably conclude that the long-winded questionnaire was a deliberate ploy to delay the unwelcome prospect of paying compensation. The pensions industry is a cosy club. The ABI and the NAPF cannot pretend to be surprised that trustees are reluctant to spend time giving detailed information on former members without any obvious incentive to do so.

But it is disingenuous of SIB chairman Sir Andrew Large to shrug off responsibility on to the industry. The SIB may not have laid down the pattern for the questionnaire,' but it condoned its distribution for two years. Two years too long.

Ethical values

☐ LISTEN to some of the pious verbiage they spout and one might almost believe the average fund manager was a 2CV-driving, new Labour-voting Friend of the Earth whose dearest wish was to make the world a better place through his investments. But an Extel survey asked a range of large companies about their relationship with the City and whether fund managers raised ethical, environmental or corporate governance issues. Almost half said never; they were more interested in the dividend.

Westinghouse to split into two companies

By Eric Reguly

WESTINGHOUSE Electric yesterday unveiled one of America's largest corporate restructurings, with a plan to separate its media interests from $4.6 billion of industrial operations.

The new industrial company, to be based in Pittsburgh, will retain the Westinghouse name and concentrate on power generation, including nuclear power plants and transport refrigeration systems.

The media company, as yet unnamed, will have its headquarters in New York and will comprise CBS, the TV broadcasting network that was purchased last year for $5.4 billion, Group W Satellite Communications, a cable TV company, and Infinity Broadcasting, one of the country's largest radio groups.

Michael Jordan, the Westinghouse chairman, will stay with the media company. When the change is completed, each company will have its own publicly listed shares, directors and executives.

The spin-off of the industrial operations was designed to create two focused companies, allowing investors to choose between industrial operations and media.

Splitting Westinghouse is expected to take nine months. The tax-free spin-off has to be approved by the US Internal Revenue Service.

The restructuring will take Westinghouse back to its roots. Westinghouse, one of America's oldest and best known companies, began as an electrical products company and pioneered atomic power for everything from electricity generation to ship propulsion. It became the second largest electricity generator after General Electric.

In the 1980s, it shed many of its businesses, including light bulb manufacturing, and diversified into areas such as financial services and broadcasting. The acquisition of CBS, one of the big three TV networks, and its investment in Infinity made it one on the world's largest media groups.

Westinghouse had become so diverse that few Americans knew what it did anymore. In an advertising campaign, it referred to itself as "the best known unknown company in America".

Westinghouse will eliminate about 1,100 jobs, 5 per cent of the workforce, in its energy and power-generation businesses and take a $125 million charge in the fourth quarter to cover redundancy costs.

It also plans to sell 20 per cent of Thermo King, its transport refrigeration company, to the public.

Willis Corroon to target US for bids

By Marianne Curphey

WILLIS CORROON, the international insurance broker, has lifted nine-month profits by 17 per cent to £88.2 million, in spite of difficult market conditions.

The result includes an £8.2 million contribution from the group's Lloyd's members' agency after the Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal Plan. It also includes £2.4 million pre-tax profit on the disposal of non-core businesses and of £2.1 million earned before they were sold. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 13.2p and balance sheet gearing was largely eliminated.

Pre-tax profits for the nine months of the group's continuing operations, excluding Lloyd's and the disposals, came to £75.5 million, 14 per cent higher than those for the corresponding period last year.

Max Taylor, chief executive, said the group's principal focus was organic growth, but it would be targeting small acquisitions, particularly in the US retail market.

He added: "We ruled out at the mid year the idea that we would be seeking an alliance with one of the big six insurers, and although we reserve the right to review the situation, we do not believe that such a move would create value."

Tempus, page 30

Land Securities plans more sales

By Carl Mortished

LAND SECURITIES plans further asset sales this year in an attempt to restructure its portfolio, which is suffering from low rental growth and the high cost of a £500 million development programme.

Britain's largest quoted property company saw a fall in revenue pre-tax profits from £118 million to £116 million because of a rise in the cost of financing property developments. However, property disposals, including the sale of 33 Grosvenor Place, SW1, generated profits of £13.4 million.

Total pre-tax profit for the half year to September 30, including gains from disposals, was £129 million for the six-month period, up from £118 million in the previous year. Sir Peter Hunt, chairman, said that he expected further sales in the second half and reported an improved demand from tenants and investors.

Land Securities spent £107.5 million in the period, including £79 million on development. Financing costs rose to £82 million (£79.7 million).

Sir Peter said that schemes were under consideration that could add a further five million sq ft to the portfolio.

Net rental income rose only 1 per cent to £201 million during the period. The company is paying an interim dividend of 7.35p, up 3.5 per cent from the half-year payout last time. Adjusted earnings per share, excluding property sales was 16.17p (16.5p).

Tempus, page 30

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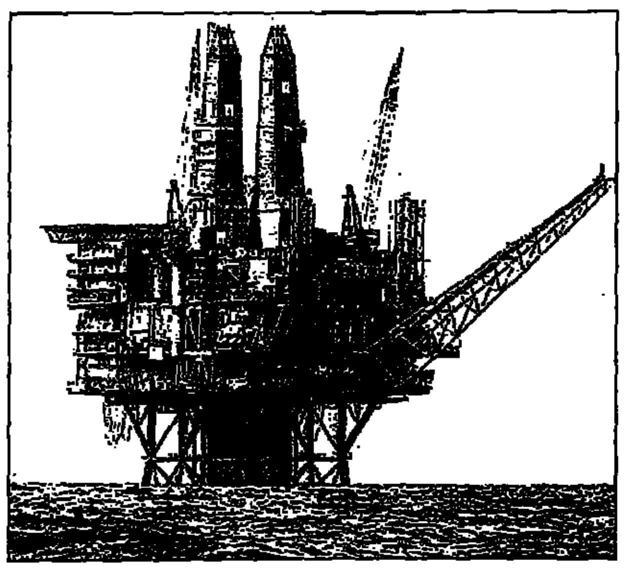
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Money worries return to haunt investors



Shares of Lasmo, the oil company, rose 8½p to 210p

CONCERNS about dearer money came back to haunt stock market investors as the latest unemployment figures provided proof that the economy is still gathering pace.

The stronger than expected drop in the jobless figures during October, to the lowest level since February 1991, is likely to increase pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to signal a further rise in interest rates.

Last week in its quarterly *Inflation Report*, the Bank of England urged the Government to raise rates again — just a week after initiating the first rise for two years.

It all proved too much for the equity market. An early mark-up on the back of another positive performance overnight on Wall Street was quickly whittled away, leaving the FT-SE 100 index 7.4 down at 3,926.9 by the close.

As expected, **East Midlands** and Dominion Resources, the US power generator, agreed terms of a £1.3 billion bid after late-night talks on Tuesday. The cash terms value the regional electricity company at 670p a share. Only last month, shares of East Midland were changing hands at 500p, but they rose sharply after Dominion was forced to concede it was considering a bid at about the 608p level.

That was dismissed out of court by the East Midland board. But with dealers worried by the possibility of a referral of the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, shares of East Midland finished just 11½p better at 622½p.

Elsewhere in the electricity sector, **PowerGen** advanced 6½p to 550½p before half-year figures this morning that are expected to show pre-tax profits down from £133 million to £124 million.

Vendome, the luxury goods group, fell 16p to 544½p after a profits downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, its own broker. It cut its forecast for the current year by £10 million to £270 million and for 1997 from £315 million to £305 million. Hoare blames its move on the impact of a strong pound on the Swiss franc, which makes it difficult selling overseas.

British Gas rose 6p to 198½p as UBS, the broker, reiterated its "buy" recommendation on the shares. **BT** hardened 1½p to 360½ after NatWest Securities urged clients to "add" to their holdings.

Confirmation that **Lasmo**, the oil company, expects to hit new production targets set for 1997 lifted the shares 8½p to 210p as 5.5 million were traded. The new production target of 200,000 barrels a day is a 12 per cent increase on this year's target. Joe Darby, chief executive, says this production level should be maintained for the next five years by developing existing fields. It does not include 14 discoveries under way or awaiting development.

Whispers in the Square Mile suggest MAID may be about ask shareholders to dig deep to finance further projects. The price was a notable faller yesterday closing 7p down at 247½p. On Monday the online information group concluded a joint venture with *Thorn Business Communications*.

Bid speculation continued to drive shares of **House of Fraser**, the stores group, higher. They ended 8p better at 144½p on turnover of almost a million shares. Once again **Burton Group**, 1½p easier at 143p, is seen as the most likely bidder. House of Fraser has been a disappointment to investors since it was refloated on the stock market, with the shares rocked by difficult trading and at least one profits warning.

Heavy turnover was recorded in **Sears** with almost 11 million shares traded as the price firmed 2p to 89p.

UniCHem lost another 3p at 246p, further devaluing the terms of its bid for **Lloyds Chemist**. The original terms valued Lloyds at £657 million, but the deal is now valued at only £633 million. Institutions appear to be favouring the all-cash offer from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical supplier. Lloyds remained steady at 511½p.

Third-quarter figures from **Commercial Union** failed to match Tuesday's numbers from **General Accident**, down 4p at 714½p. Pre-tax profits were down from £383 million to £343 million with an underwriting loss of £21 million. Even so, CU rose 6p to 645p.

Half-year figures from **Hambros**, the merchant bank, received a lukewarm reception, with the price ending 7½p lower at 245p. Pre-tax profits returned to the black, but operating profits from banking activities suffered a setback.

But half-year figures from **Land Securities** were given a warm welcome and the price responded with a rise of 7½p to 726p.

Eurotunnel held steady at 90½p after confirming that it would hit its year-end targets. The group expected to increase last year's revenues of almost £300 million 50 per cent.

A newcomer, **Majestic Wines**, which supplies retail and business clients, continued to make headway on the Alternative Investment Market, finishing the session 14p higher at 218½p. The shares were placed earlier this week at 160p.

Wellington Underwriting jumped 21p to 142p after completion of a reverse takeover by WU Holdings, its own managing agency. The deal values the enlarged company at £100 million and makes it the largest of the quoted Lloyd's brokers.

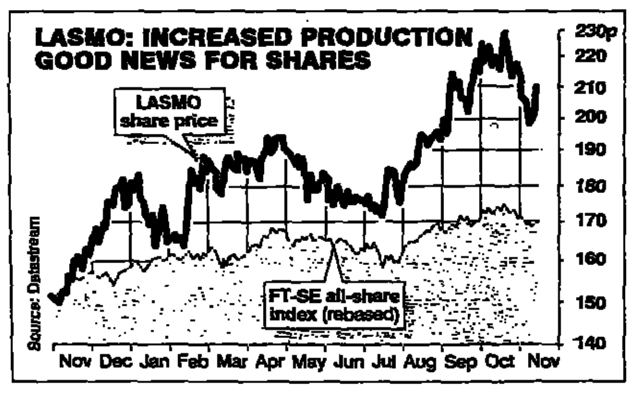
City speculators say investors should keep a close eye on **Full Circle**, up 1½p at 15p. Shares in the building supplies group have been trading at a low of 13¾p, but with more than 500,000 of them changing hands yesterday, the company now appears vulnerable.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Losses of £½ were quickly recorded on the back of the latest unemployment figures showing the number of people out of work down to its lowest level since February 1991.

In the futures pit a total of 65,000 contracts were completed as the December series of the long gilt fell £⅝ to £$108\frac{15}{16}$.

In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 came off £$\frac{13}{16}$ to £$100\frac{27}{32}$, while among shorter dated coupons, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$\frac{11}{32}$ off at £$102\frac{9}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average pulled back from its record run at midday, dropping 19.01 points to 6,247.03.



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6247.03 (-19.01)
S&P Composite	728.62 (-0.94)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20979.44 (-226.99)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	12943.69 (+137.38)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	602.02 (+4.43)

Sydney:

AO	2346.9 (+3.4)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2773.43 (+39.13)

Singapore:

Straits	2146.48 (+18.63)

Brussels:

General	10076.80 (+34.91)

Paris:

CAC-40	2217.19 (-11.94)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	808.40 (+2.00)

London:

FT 30	2765.5 (-9.8)
FT 100	3926.9 (-7.4)
FTSE Mid 250	4410.2 (+5.4)
FTSE 350	1961.2 (-2.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1799.36 (+5.67)
FT All-Share	1936.77 (-2.02)
FT Non Financials	2023.02 (-4.08)
FT Fixed Interest	115.35 (-0.07)
FT Govt Secs	93.68 (-0.16)
Bargains	34615
SEAQ Volume	851.3m
USM (Datastrm)	202.25 (+0.94)
US$	1.6542 (-0.0025)
German Mark	2.4921 (+0.0239)
Exchange Index	91.3 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2921
£:SDR	1.1318
RPI	153.8 Sep (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.6 Sep (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Beaufort (3)	4	...
Beechcroft	4	...
Brands Hatch Leis	172½	...
Britt Allcroft	159½	...
Charles Taylor	165	+ ½
Corp Exec Search (3)	4¾	...
Deep Sea Leisure	164½	...
First Russian Frts C	607½	+ 2½
Geo Interactive Md	96	...
Healthcare Reform	99½	...
Jardinerie Interiors	122½	...
John David Sports	300	+ ½
Loftus Road (72)	71	+ 2½
Majestic Wines	218½	+ 14
Mears Group	11½	...
Mondas (75)	90½	...
Oriental Restaurants	231½	− 5
Scot Highland Htls	137½	...
Ultra Electronics	308½	+ 4½

RIGHTS ISSUES

AG Holdings n/p	12½	...
Bridport-Gundry n/p	3	...
Capital Shop 625% n/p	2¼	...
European Leis n/p	13½	...
Perkins Foods n/p (74)	6½	− ¼
Springwood n/p	82½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Adam & Harvey	335p (+25p)
BS Group	186p (+13½p)
Cafe Inns	175p (+12½p)
Regent Inns	286½p (+13p)
Body Shop	220p (+8½p)
Scholl	286½p (+11p)
Business Post	480p (+12½p)
Biocompe Intl	590p (+15p)
Flextech	665p (+15p)
Next	558p (+12p)
Guinness	453½p (+8p)
Brit Biotech	235½p (+9p)
Photobition	356½p (+9p)
Danka Bs Sys	650p (+12½p)

FALLS:

Pet City	460p (-35p)
Liberty	390p (-20p)
Vendome	544½p (-16p)
Scotia	575p (-10p)
Micro Focus	870p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 35

Spoiling the victory

OVER the next fortnight, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will decide whether his budget will be fiscally responsible, a bribe to voters or an attempt to drag the carpet from under the feet of Gordon Brown, his shadow. One recent event — the quarter-point interest rate rise — has tended to water down the cynicism that drives the "cash for votes" theory about generous tax cuts.

The problem is Britain's burgeoning structural deficit. The borrowing requirement for 1996 is now forecast to be £27 billion, almost £5 billion more than at the time Kenneth Clarke last announced the Government's recipe for the economy. If these sums are to fall, he cannot be generous with tax giveaways and if he is indeed worried about inflation he will have regard to the buoyant GDP figures, the fall in unemployment and signs that consumers are spending. Indeed, there is no need to pump money into an economy driven by a consumer recovery unless the Government wants to reward a Labour government with an old-fashioned Labour-style bout of price inflation. A windfall worth £18 billion £20 billion could added be to Britain's household budgets next year from the flotation of building societies. Compared to that sort of pump-priming, the Chancellor's expected budget giveaway of some £3 billion is gilding the lily.

One way or the other the Chancellor has to cut taxes. Without a show of bravado, he will be crucified by his own side before the Labour party gets close enough to land a punch. That suggests a consumer boom followed swiftly by a monetary squeeze. Is Labour already in power?

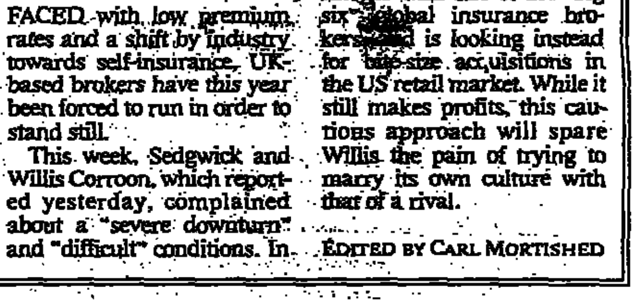
Hambros

HAMBROS is in need of friends; unusual for such a venerable City institution and one of the few London merchant banks still to retain its independence. But its principals, notably Sir Chips Keswick who is stepping into the chairman's shoes, have asked for the market's indulgence while they attempt to bring some life back to a bank that has spent the 1990s in decline.

But to win time, Sir Chips has to deliver something much better than the half-year figures presented yesterday. Hambros is essentially three elements — a bank, an investment company and a quoted estate agents chain, Hambro Countrywide. The latter two are doing quite nicely, thank you, because of the recovery in the housing market and the sale of Hambros' investment in Thorn lighting.

But what of the bank? Operating profits were just £10 million in the half year, down from £15.9 million last year and around £40 million at the beginning of this decade; a paltry performance at a time when rivals are making a mint in the corporate finance.

Hambros' antagonistic shareholder, Regent Pacific, talks darkly of breaking the group up, arguing that the estate agency tail is wagging the banking dog. Given a share price of 245p yesterday, a stated net asset value of 267p and a probable realisation value of 400p, Regent's proposal could gain support.



Source: Datastream

Land Securities

WHATEVER caused Land Securities shares to rise yesterday, it cannot have been the half-year figures which were as dreary as a 1960s office building. Sentiment flowing from the previous day's offering from Capital Shopping Centres might be the explanation. However, the comparison is one of apples and pears.

The revenue account tells the whole story: rents barely moved ahead since the first half of the previous financial year. At the same time, Land Sec has been working hard to fill vacant space and the void rate has fallen to a mere 2½ per cent of the rent roll. That suggests that the 1 per cent rise in net rents for the half year may include more than a few falls in income as tenants leave and new leases are agreed at lower rents.

Land Sec is doing the right things in spending heavily on rejuvenating its portfolio but there is no reason for investors to expect bounty in the year end property revaluation. CSC is an unusual creature, owning two very large out-of-town shopping centres which are attracting more than their fair share of consumer spending, to the detriment of the high street. In contrast, Land Sec's retail portfolio contains many town centre malls as well as high street shops.

It will be a long haul for Land Sec and if foreign funds are again buying over-rented London offices, the company should be grateful if some of that cash comes their way.

Willis Corroon

FACED with low premium rates and a shift by industry towards self-insurance, UK-based brokers have this year been forced to run in order to stand still.

This week, Sedgwick and Willis Corroon, which reported yesterday, complained about a "severe downturn" and "difficult" conditions. In the circumstances, Willis's nine-month performance is creditable. Even without disposals and the £8.2 million contribution from Lloyd's, pre-tax profit rose 14 per cent. Revenue growth in the UK and the US, and cost containment helped. However, costs need to be cut further if profits are to continue to grow next year, because Willis is unlikely to enjoy the same level of profit commission from Lloyd's in 1997. The City believes the contribution from the group's Lloyd's members' agency may drop to £2 million next year and disappear completely in 1998.

Willis has ruled out a merger with one of the "big six" global insurance brokers and is looking instead for bite-size acquisitions in the US retail market. While it still makes profits, this cautious approach will spare Willis the pain of trying to marry its own culture with that of a rival.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	883-882	Mar	999-996
Mar	918-916	May	1010-1008
May	935-934	Jul	1023 BID
Jul	953-952	Sep	1034-1030
Sep	970-967		
Dec	985-983		Volume: 7428

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	1493-1487	Jul	1345-1338
Jan	1423-1421	Sep	1355-1340
Mar	1369-1368	Nov	1355-1345
May	1350-1347		Volume: 5530

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	305.5-04.8
Spot: 307.2		Oct	300.3-00.0
Dec	304.3-03.7	Dec	303.0-02.0
Mar	303.5-03.2	Mar	305.8-02.5
May	304.5-03.8		Volume: 1955

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	89.71	137.81	103.42
(+/-)	-1.38	+9.48	+5.07
Eng/Wales:	89.22	138.43	101.99
(+/-)	-1.12	+9.48	+4.97
(%)	+2.0	+2.0	-11.0
Scotland:	97.33	135.69	108.66
(+/-)	-2.05	+8.50	+4.88
(%)	-28.0	+19.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	22.85	+0.55
Brent 15 day (Dec)	23.30	+0.50
Brent 15 day (Jan)	22.95	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	23.75	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	23.65	+0.50

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	229 (+1)	232 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	224 (+4)	226 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
Naphtha	224 (+3)	228 (+4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	216.25-16.50	Mar	199.00 BID
Jan	212.00 SLR	Apr	191.50-92.00
Feb	206.00-06.25		Vol: 17973

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	23.33-23.35	Mar	22.00 SLR
Jan	22.94-22.96	Apr	21.48 SLR
Feb	22.49 SLR		Vol: 50111

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	95.50	Nov	91.75
Jan	97.20	Jan	93.25
Mar	99.10	Mar	94.50
May	100.20	May	95.50
Jul	101.40	Sep	92.50
Volume: 709		Volume: 30	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	63.2
Apr	71.0	70.0
May	unq	79.0
		Volume: 20

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Nov 81.75-82.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 96	1500	1455	1460
Dec 96	1440	1396	1400
Jan 97	1375	1325	1335
Apr 97	1370	1340	1355
Vol: 617 lots		Open interest: 3903	

Index 1522 +7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2131.0-2133.0	2056.0-2057.0	1856050
Lead ($/tonne)	732.00-733.00	738.50-739.00	220050
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1041.0-1042.0	1061.5-1062.0	398700
Tin ($/tonne)	5945.0-5955.0	5990.0-5995.0	32205
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1425.0-1426.0	1448.0-1448.5	1591275
Nickel ($/tonne)	7122.0-7124.0	7234.0-7235.0	62172

LIFFE OPTIONS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 62741	Dec 96	3944.0	3949.0	3928.0	3941.0	10599
	Mar 97	3951.0	3951.0	3951.0	3957.0	50
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 4193	Dec 96				4439.0	0
	Mar 97					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 518392	Dec 96	93.63	93.63	93.54	93.55	18948
	Mar 97	93.35	93.36	93.24	93.25	32266
	Jun 97	93.05	93.06	92.92	92.93	30528
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.38	99.38	99.38	99.38	14
	Jun 97	99.23	99.23	99.22	99.22	83
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1112632	Dec 96	96.79	96.80	96.79	96.80	10165
	Mar 97	96.81	96.81	96.78	96.81	16621
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 142804	Dec 96	109-21	109-22	108-24	108-30	66707
	Mar 97	108-26	108-26	108-07	108-07	1110
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	124.45	124.83	124.45	124.58	4985
	Mar 97	123.48	123.86	123.48	123.64	1639
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 282767	Dec 96	100.81	100.82	100.60	100.67	130090
	Mar 97	99.80	99.80	99.65	99.68	3469
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 27748	Dec 96	95.83	95.84	95.81	95.82	1583
	Mar 97	95.84	95.84	95.81	95.82	335
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 90629	Dec 96	98.14	98.14	98.00	98.03	4426
	Mar 97	98.11	98.12	97.97	98.00	9553
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 98523	Dec 96	126.47	126.70	126.43	126.62	57412
	Mar 97	125.80	125.85	125.68	125.79	945

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] Low 5 Week fixed: 6

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible].

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.29	n/a	5.38	5.44	5.60
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.30-382.60 Close: $383.90-384.40 High: $384.95-385.45
Low: $381.05-381.55 AM: $382.50 PM: $383.60

Krugerrand: $383.00-385.00 (£231.00-233.00)

Platinum: $386.75 (£234.10) Silver: $4.94 (£2.975) Palladium: $118.75 (£71.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for November 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4914-2.7964	2.7939-2.7964	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	50.930-51.394	51.303-51.394	16-11pr	45-39pr
Copenhagen	9.4940-9.5760	9.5672-9.5760	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9955-0.9992	0.9972-0.9989	6-2pr	19-13pr
Frankfurt	2.4731-2.4923	2.4899-2.4920	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	250.10-252.28	251.79-251.99	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	208.13-209.89	209.62-209.81	10-20ds	22-40ds
Milan	2491.4-2509.0	2506.1-2508.5	26-42ds	66-88ds
Montreal	2.1884-2.2069	2.2027-2.2046	0.62-0.57pr	0.120-0.111pr
New York	1.6420-1.6538	1.6528-1.6536	0.115-0.095pr	0.363-0.332pr
Oslo	10.385-10.462	10.446-10.458	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.3560-8.4280	8.4177-8.4251	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.896-11.006	10.984-11.006	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	182.80-184.62	184.44-184.62	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	17.396-17.545	17.521-17.536	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.0804-2.1000	2.0969-2.0996	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

Australia	1.2688-1.2696
Austria	10.59-10.60
Belgium (Com)	31.01-31.05
Canada	1.3322-1.3327
Denmark	5.7810-5.7821
France	5.0887-5.0897
Germany	1.5048-1.5055
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.6570-1.6590
Italy	1514.68-1515.18
Japan	111.45-111.55
Malaysia	2.5244-2.5254
Netherlands	1.6879-1.6884
Norway	6.3145-6.3182
Portugal	152.21-152.26
Singapore	1.4012-1.4022
Spain	126.71-126.74
Sweden	6.6460-6.6560
Switzerland	1.2664-1.2684

Argentina peso*	1.6554-1.6581
Australia dollar	2.0990-2.1016
Bahrain dinar	0.6130-0.6250
Brazil real*	1.7115-1.7159
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7480-0.7580
Finland markka	7.3975-7.5135
Greece drachma	388.0-395.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.7879-12.7973
India rupee	58.25-59.21
Indonesia rupiah	3802.0-3870.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4955
Malaysia ringgit	4.1743-4.1780
New Zealand dollar	2.3259-2.3296
Pakistan rupee	63.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9175-6.0415
Singapore dollar	2.3177-2.3202
S Africa rand (com)	7.5900-7.6920
U A E dirham	5.9700-6.0940

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

3i	599	Lloyds TSB	5,200
ASDA Gp	4,100	LucasVarity	4,400
Abbey Ntl	2,900	Marks Spr	4,200
Allied Dom	4,900	NatWst Bk	3,600
Argos	522	Nat Grid	2,000
AB Foods	209	Nat Power	2,700
BAA	3,200	Next	1,100
BAT Inds	4,100	Orange	3,000
BOC	2,000	P & O	472
BP	3,700	Pearson	1,200
BSkyB	1,200	Pilkington	4,000
BTR	5,200	PowerGen	1,600
BT	21,800	Prudential	1,600
Bk of Scot	2,000	RMC	67
Barclays	2,800	RTZ	1,300
Bass	705	Railtrack	2,900
Blue Circle	1,200	Rank Group	2,900
Boots	2,500	Reckitt Col	683
BAe	4,100	Redland	975
BA	2,700	Reed Intl	877
Brit Gas	64,700	Rentokil	6,700
Brit Steel	3,700	Reuters	4,500
Burmah Cstl	214	Rolls Royce	2,300
Burton	9,800	Royal & Sun	2,600
Cable Wire	3,700	Royal Bk Sct	895
Cadbury	266	Safeway	1,400
Carlton Cms	2,400	Sainsbury	2,500
Cm Union	3,200	Schroders	118
Courtaulds	1,600	Scot & New	548
Dixons	1,200	Scot Power	1,700
EMI	1,800	Svrn-Trent	1,100
Enterpr Oil	3,800	Shell Trans	4,200
GKN	200	Siebe	911
GRE	4,300	SmKl Bch	1,100
GUS	1,600	Smith Nph	2,500
Gen Acc	1,200	Smiths Inds	914
Gen Elec	1,400	Std Chartd	2,000
Glaxo Well	2,700	TI Gp	426
Granada	885	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Grand Met	2,800	Tesco	2,200
Guinness	5,700	Thames W	1,600
HSBC	1,200	Tomkins	2,300
Hanson	71,600	Unilever	628
ICI	1,500	Utd Utilities	1,500
Imp Tob	6,600	Utd News	1,200
Kingfisher	961	Vodafone	8,800
LASMO	5,500	Whitbread	1,790
Ladbroke	2,600	Wlms Hld	1,900
Land Secs	2,300	Wolseley	[illegible]
Legal & Gn	1,400	Zeneca	1,400

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tanks for the memory

JEFFREY ROBINSON, best-selling author of *The Laundrymen*, feels very aggrieved. Journalists in The Netherlands were flicking through review copies of a new book, *Fraude*, when they realised that it was almost a word-for-word copy of Robinson's own tome, published locally as *De Wit Wassers*.

Arie Olivier, a convicted fraudster, is being accused of plagiarism, libel and breach of copyright. Olivier has previously published work detailing his illicit exploits. An angry Mr Robinson said: "I am intent on finding his pain threshold and driving through it with a Sherman tank."

Dummy selling

EVER wondered what Anthony Gooda was like as a young boy? Leafing through a copy of his prep-school magazine, I spot a small picture of the red-haired chappie, who went on to make his name as head of the most notorious Lloyd's sydicate. According to *The Wellbury Magazine*, from the Easter term, 1950: "A GOODA, stand-off half, played excellently in all school matches, quick off the mark in attack. He also has a safe pair of hands, and sold an extremely good 'dummy' on many occasions."

Kyran Bracken: new kit for the game

Saracen blues

FOR the first time in 100 years, the Saracens will not play in their own rugby strip this Sunday. BZW has decked the boys — including Kyran Bracken, Philippe Sella, Tony Diprose and Tony Daly — in its own blue and white colours. Michael Lynagh, former Australian captain, will lead the team in a game sponsored by BZW against Queensland.

Champion Ken

LORD JENKINS of Hillhead was ruminating on the forthcoming Budget yesterday, at a lunch sponsored by KPMG. Speaking on behalf of the British Dyslexia Association, Lord Jenkins deigned to describe Kenneth Clarke as a "rather good Chancellor", and a man of "spunk". He added that Mr Clarke had had "more willingness to stand up for his beliefs than all the other ministers put together". His recommendation for the Budget was "a touch on the brakes — both monetary and fiscal".

Pine people

WHAT do Clifford Chance and the Duke and Duchess of Kent have in common? They both have their Christmas trees delivered by a team of Santa's helpers in brightly coloured elves outfits. They have both hired Project Plants, the London landscaper, to install their sky-scraping pines.

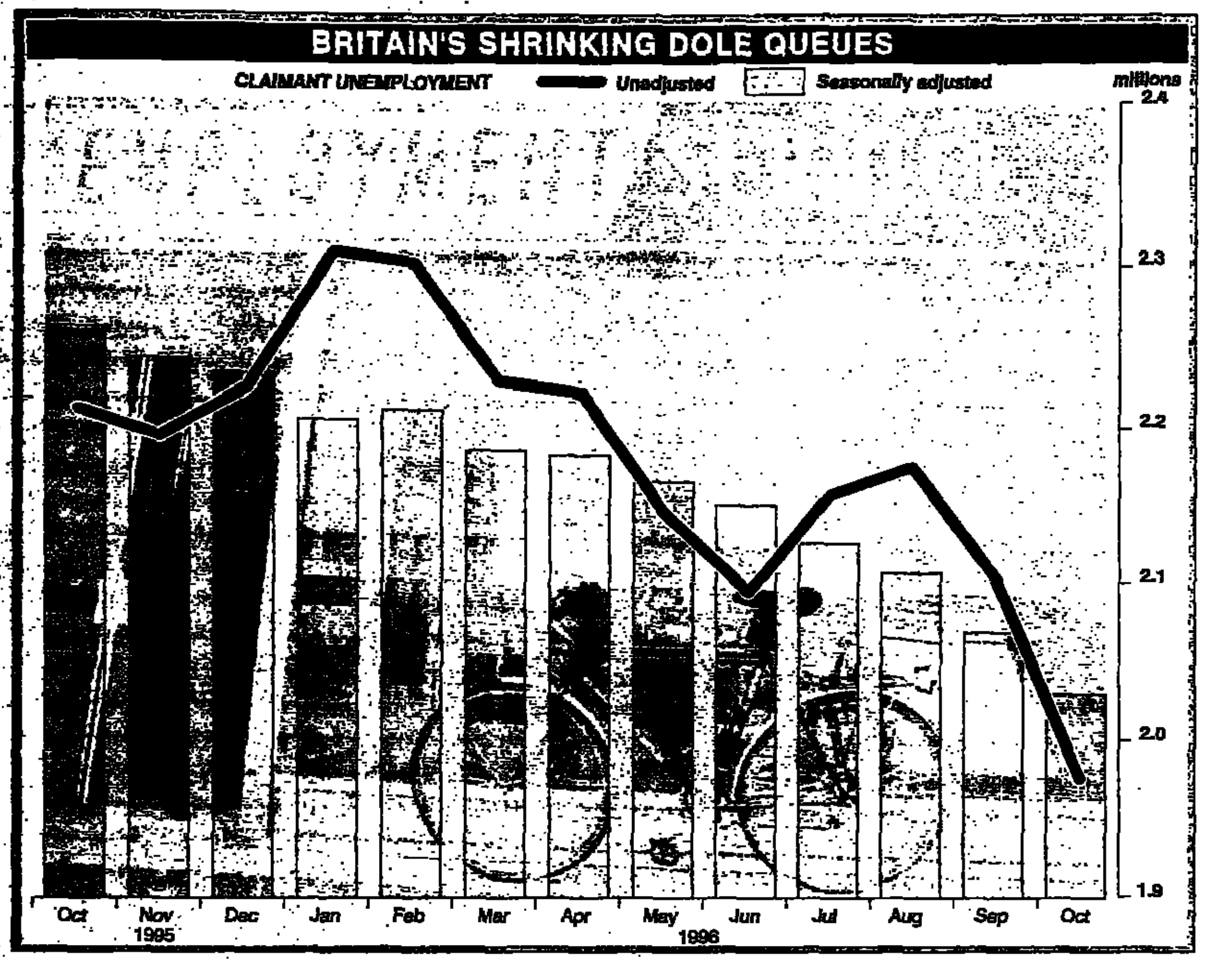
THE Barclay Brothers have picked out the new china (carmine and turquoise) for the Ritz, that was used for the first time yesterday. Although the twins might not always agree, Luke Delafosse, the new general manager, assures me they pay every attention to detail.

MORAG PRESTON

Government plays numbers game to hail policy success

Philip Bassett

explains why analysts remain cautious in spite of the continuing downward trend



Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, will today seize the opportunity in Paris to proclaim the success of Britain's economy, and its jobs market in particular, after the actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit in the UK yesterday fell below two million for the first time for five years.

At an Anglo-French conference on the changing world of work, Mrs Shephard will highlight the fact that UK headline unemployment has dropped below the psychologically significant two million *threshold as further support for the* Government's rejection of key European jobs policies such as the 48-hour week working time directive.

The Employment Secretary will be following a string of delighted government ministers as she hails what Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, called the "massive" 40,800 drop in seasonally adjusted unemployment.

That the general election draws ever closer was underlined by Mr Heseltine being the main ministerial voice on the *figures yesterday, while Mrs Shephard* was busy launching her latest move towards a national nursery vouchers scheme. When the Secretary of State has been busy in the past, one of her junior ministers has handled the routine monthly announcement.

Headline unadjusted unemployment in October fell 126,486 to 1,977,235 — the first time it has been below the two million mark since January 1991. At that time it stood at 1,959,747 and rising, eventually moving to above three million two years later.

Although unadjusted unemployment counts the actual number of people unemployed and claiming benefit, Whitehall statisticians prefer the seasonally adjusted figure — a total derived by running the actual level through a computer programme which alters it to *take account of seasonal fluctuations to* allow for comparisons over time.

Despite the scale of yesterday's fall in adjusted unemployment — the biggest monthly drop since December 1994 — its total stayed just above the two million mark at 2,030,000. But Whitehall officials widely expect *it to dip below two* million in the next two months.

Seasonal factors pushed up the size of the drop in unadjusted unemployment to 6 per cent in a month. Adjusted, this decrease fell back to 2 per cent. But even within the normal health warnings about one month's set of figures, yesterday's totals should be treated with some caution. Politicians like Mrs Shephard and Mr Heseltine are unequivocal in their use of the latest unemployment figures to proclaim the success of the Government's economic policies — but behind them their own officials are a good deal less certain.

Yesterday's seasonally adjusted fall, for instance, is regarded with particular scepticism for a number of reasons. First, the claimant count was taken just four days before the Government's *introduction last month of its controversial* Job Seekers' Allowance — the new payment which has replaced the old unemployment benefit.

The planned deterrent effect of JSA, like other similar government welfare-to-work moves, is estimated by statisti*cians to be likely to clip perhaps 6,000* people a month off the count for the next six months. In addition, administrative changes for its start may have pushed up the size of this month's fall in adjusted unemployment to about 10,000 — a number officials *expect to see bouncing* back into the figures next month, and which should keep the adjusted total from dropping below two million.

Other suggested factors — little more than guesses really — include the ending of postal signing for benefit and the deterrent impact of the Benefit Agency's fraud telephone hotline, which officials say has so far received more than 100,000 calls. In addition, benefit officers are noticing a significant increase — up 17 per cent over the past year, and 4 per cent in the past month alone — in the number of people no longer turning up to sign on for their benefit. Figures also tend to be volatile at this time of the year because of the large number of people coming off the register to enter further education.

Such points may well make yesterday's figures more unreliable than usual. Only last week the Government, in a formal statement to the Commons' all-party Employment and Education Select Committee, had to register its "regret" that the monthly claimant count figures are seen to be untrustworthy as an accurate indicator of *unemployment*.

But whatever the value of one particular set of figures, what is clearly not in question is that unemployment remains on a downward trend. Over the past year both the adjusted and the unadjusted figures tell the same story: *unemployment is down by about* 235,000, or some 10 per cent.

Since adjusted unemployment hit its peak in December 1992, it has risen four times and fallen 42 times. The total decline since then is now marching towards one million — 951,100 in all.

Yesterday's large drop, following a big fall of 37,900 for September, pushes the average monthly decline over the past *three months to* 32,000. But because of the special factors, government statisticians remain cautious, refusing as yet to lift their rough estimate of the monthly trend change above 15,000 to 20,000.

> There's no simple connection — fall in unemployment does not always signify a rise in employment

One of the reasons they remain so is the employment figures — the number of people going into jobs. While there is no simple connection between changes in unemployment and employment — a fall in one does not necessarily lead to a rise in the other — there is a relationship. When both sets of figures behave oddly, as they have until relatively recently, with unemployment falling but employment stubbornly refusing to rise, statisticians, economists and analysts tend to become nervous.

Those outside the Government — and some inside it — will not be made less nervous by some revisions to the main series of employment figures, also announced yesterday. Instead of saying that the workforce in employment (WiE) *series, an employer-based survey measure*, rose 90,000 in the quarter to June, they said it rose 98,000. And instead of saying employment in the final quarter of last year went up 86,000, they now say it rose 166,000.

Such changes — while statistically *explicable and taking the WiE series a* bit nearer the household-based Labour Force Survey series, which has been showing much higher employment growth — do nothing to lessen public confusion about, nor increase confidence in, the official totals. When they *are coupled with a productivity slump* — new figures yesterday showed the worst fall since the 1981 recession — alarm bells may start ringing.

Whitehall economists accept that the precise pace of jobs growth is uncertain, but maintain it is strong — although it is *nothing like the huge boost in jobs* which helped President Clinton to his election victory in the US last week.

But it is enough to allow ministers to claim, as Mr Heseltine did yesterday, that "Britain is on the move" over jobs. Yesterday's breakthrough below the unadjusted two million barrier, together with the other figures in the raft of labour market data, will provide strong ammunition for Mrs Shephard in Paris today to defend the Government's decision to apply pressure on the EU intergovernmental conference over the 48-hour working time directive.

But if you're still unemployed in spite of the drop, being one side or the other of the two million barrier doesn't make a whole lot of difference. In the political and economic arguments over unemployment, there is only one point on which all sides agree: no matter how far or how fast it has come down, unemployment is still too high.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Workers at table are nothing to fea

From the General Secretary, Manufacturing Science Finance

Sir, I am sorry to read that the CBI is playing the same old sad tune in its report *Boards without Tiers*.

In the light of its failure to bring all of industry on board following Cadbury, not to mention Hempel, the CBI should now be clear that voluntarism will not work. Britain's business needs a framework of corporate governance that embraces the different stakeholders, and there will need to be legislation to back it up.

As for the idea of two-tier boards, I really cannot u derstand what the CBI afraid of. Lots of oth European economies ma age to prosper with worke on the board, so wl shouldn't we?

Now that Hallowe'en over for this year, perha the CBI could put on one si the false spectre of worke at the table and replace with a dose of commonsen social partnership. I am su we would all be better off a result.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER LYONS,
MSF Centre,
33-37 Moreland Street, EC

No equity for the small investor who pays tax twice

From Mr. C. Stephenson

Sir, In 1994 I subscribed, out of my personal savings taxed at the highest rate, to a Rights Issue of ordinary shares in Reckitt & Colman. The company now proposes to *return* funds to shareholders by paying a *special* foreign income dividend (FID). This carries no tax credit and is treated as a gross payment reduced by income tax at the lower rate, although individuals paying *tax at the higher rate will pay* tax at the higher rate on the grossed-up FID. This taxes my original savings twice and is manifestly unfair on the small private investor. Where is the equity in that?

Yours faithfully,
C. STEPHENSON,
1 Broadfern Road,
Knowle, Solihull,
West Midlands.

Unfair share payout

From Mr Colin Gillert

Sir, Peter White, group chief executive of Alliance & Leicester, should try pulling the other one if he wants us *to believe that the proposed* share distribution scheme is "the fairest and most appropriate to members".

The only fair distribution would be to use a formula where distribution relates to *sum involved x length of* time invested/borrowed.

The proposed system is a travesty in that it clearly rewards those carpet-baggers who invested £100 sums in society funds in the precise hope that A&L would come up with just such a scheme.

Here's one investor who will not be voting in favour of the proposal — but I am reconciled to being outvoted by the multitudes who will benefit. Surely the only reason that such a proposal has been made.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN GILLERT,
The Penthouse,
Marlow Court,
Willesden Lane, NW6.

Money from sell-of should have gone into rail enterprise

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, *It is perhaps not surpr* ing that ministers turn down a proposal by the r franchising director (Spen ing watchdog criticises r sell-off, October 23) that e cess profits arising out of r privatisation *should* shared between the rail ope ator and the taxpayer. Aft all, the aim of the operati was to bring money into t Treasury's coffers by selli cheap to get a buyer.

The idea did have so merit, yet one would ha liked to see a proportion the money being invested the enterprise. And that t would have been fixed part of the contract. The *have been instances enou* of the transfer of reward new private owners, b genuine risk-taking has be less in evidence.

And one can only go alo with Sir John Bourn, t *Comptroller and Audit* General, when he criticis the failure to set spendi limits on the firms involved the sell-off. For the Treasu too had suggested that lim should be set. Moreover it h *often seemed that the taxpa* has gained little if anythi from the activities of cons tants for these have add nothing to the value of t assets. Much better to ha spent this money on the r *system itself, which has be* suffering seriously fr under-investment, particul ly in the period leading up privatisation.

Unfortunately the advice the rail franchising direct can be safely ignored whe is not in line with the Gove ment's agenda. And they d not need to act either on t criticism of the NAO.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. GUILD,
53 Grange Road,
Edinburgh.

Letters to the Business section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Jonathan Prynn on the woes of the biggest fast-food chain

Wall St loses taste for McDonald's

Hard to swallow: McDonald's is not finding it easy coming to terms with disappointing results

There are few more potent emblems of the relentless global march of American culture than the Golden Arches of McDonald's. Since its birth in the early 1950s the company has opened restaurants in 96 countries, changing the eating habits of generations of children.

Last month saw new branches in Delhi and Lima. Others in even more exotic locations are sure to follow. One day, there will probably be a McDonald's on the moon.

And yet there is one place on Earth where Ronald McDonald with his ubiquitous menu of Big Macs and Quarter Pounders is failing to satisfy — Wall Street. For McDonald's, one of the most disciplined and well organised companies in the history of capitalism, is under fierce attack in its own backyard.

Last month the company reported a decline in domestic sales (excluding new restaurants) for the fifth quarter in a row. The worrying slump comes at a time when the US economy is booming and its main rivals, Burger King and Wendy's, are showing solid, steady growth, grabbing market share from the world's biggest fast-food chain.

In part, the company is a victim of its own success. With nearly 20,000 restaurants in the US, there are even fewer opportunities for more openings. Each new branch increases the problem of "cannibalisation" — taking business from other McDonald's restaurants rather than growing overall sales.

The number of branch openings has slowed dramatically this year, but the company still plans to open about 2,500 in the US alone next year. Some analysts suspect halting or paring down the opening programme makes financial sense but will not be considered by a company unused to admissions of failure or downgrading of profit forecasts.

The second challenge facing McDonald's is the ageing of the customer base that fuelled growth in the 1970s and 1980s. The suburban teenagers who grazed on Quarter Pounders 20 or more years ago are now wealthy, middle-aged professionals who try to wean their children off such a diet as fast as possible. At the same time, competitors such as Wendy's have been launching their own lines of highly successful upmarket burgers that have scored well both with American kids and their parents.

In a recent quality survey, McDonald's burgers were rated twelfth out of 13, with Wendy's second and Burger King eighth. To tempt back the baby-boomers, McDonald's launched in May the Arch Deluxe, its "sophisticated" adult burger. Then last month came Crispy Chicken Deluxe, Grilled Chicken Deluxe, and Fish Fillet Deluxe.

McDonald's two-year search for a new upmarket image at an estimated cost of $200 million on marketing alone is already the stuff of corporate legend. To develop the new lines, the company hired Andrew Selbaggio, one of Chicago's best known chefs, who proclaimed: "I want people to realise we are not a factory, we are a restaurant."

Hundreds of new mustards and mayonnaises were tested and dozens of types of fish for the Fish Fillet Deluxe. At the glitzy launch of the Arch Deluxe, employees performed special dance steps to mark the occasion. And yet by McDonald's exacting standards the new range has been a monumental flop. Sales from US restaurants, excluding new openings, have not risen in a single month since May and customers seem reluctant to pay $2.49 for a "sophisticated" burger when they can have a vulgar one for 99 cents.

McDonald's says that sales have exceeded internal (and undisclosed) expectations and that the new range was never meant to be a magic formula.

Perhaps so, but at the very least the episode has confirmed impressions that the company's high command has begun to lose its once unquestioned touch. Particular scorn is reserved for the advertisements for the adult burgers, which show a child with a grumpy face — an image of unhappiness that would have been regarded as heresy until recently.

Although international sales have shown far healthier growth, many of McDonald's main overseas markets — Japan, Germany and Britain for example — are not as strong as they could be for a variety of reasons.

As Ronald McDonald enters middle age, the future for the company looks less certain than for years. It has had rocky patches before and recovered, often by cutting prices. However, with the launch of the Deluxe range, that option is less tenable.

Michael Quinlan, chairman and chief executive, told investors last month that the recent run of disappointing results had "fallen short of our goals". For analysts used to being "treated as a branch of their investor-relations operation" as one put it, this was amazing. "There was a feeling that it couldn't happen to a nicer bunch," said another Wall Street follower bruised by the treatment meted out by the company to critics in the past.

A management shake-up last month in which Jack Greenberg, chief financial officer, replaced Edward Rensi, former burger flipper and veteran McDonald's careerman, as head of the US operations has failed to dispel the growing sense of unease on Wall Street. And shares have continued to slide.

Damon Brundage, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said the current problems have left McDonald's stuck in a "strategic no-man's land" with no easy route back to financial safety. He added: "The question remains — is the US over for McDonald's?"

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ACCOUNTANCY

2005, a professional's odyssey

If accountants do not adapt, they are likely to find life very difficult, says **David Stewart**

Y 1916 the Bank of England ad equipped itself with 65 of e new Burroughs Adding nd Calculating Machines. uinness had 18 and the Post ffice 53. A revolution in the utomation of accounting was nder way.

Put together these mustered ess calculating power than nany people now carry around n their pockets. But "by 2005 he power and capabilities of omputer technology will have rown exponentially and costs vill have fallen dramatically. nowledge bases, in particuar, will be more affordable nd widely available".

This is one of a number of redictions made in *Addedalue Professionals — Charered Accountants in 2005*, ublished today by the Institute f Chartered Accountants. The iews are those of the Institute's 2005 Working Party.

It is clear that there are many rivers of change that will ombine to have a great impact ver the next few years. What he report sets out to confront is ow these changes will affect the working lives of chartered accountants.

The review has three main themes: that technology will de-skill many tasks currently the preserve of particular professionals; that business is to become a global affair: and that there will be polarisation of business in general, and the practising side of the accounting profession in particular, between the very large and the small. Medium-sized businesses are in for a hard time, the working party believes.

The Big Six accounting firms will globalise further and try to develop unique strategies and identities. Many small accounting firms will prosper by dint of specialisation. But overall demand for accountants in practice will not keep pace with the supply.

Access to knowledge, information and techniques by way of the screen and keyboard will enable others to compete *on accountants' home ground*, offering accounting, tax and *other advisory services*. And online real-time access to *information will put users of* company accounts, rather *than the preparers, in the* driving seat.

Accountants may no longer be the people who prepare the *accounts, or even decide* the measurements. "*Management and financial accounts* are likely to converge with *non-financial performance* measures as companies and *stakeholders demand greater* value from the financial reporting process. Although the analytical and interpretive *functions are likely to remain* the preserve of skilled professionals, *those professionals* will not necessarily be accountants," *the report concludes*.

If not accounting, what is it *that we accountants will do?* The effective answer is "change or die". If chartered accountants do not adapt, they are likely to find life very difficult. "Technology, competition, *deregulation* and the maturity of the audit market *could mean too many accountants* chasing too few jobs," the *report says. And this is the* danger the profession must *seek to avoid by ultimately* making sure "the demand for *chartered accountants* rises to meet the supply".

There are opportunities to *do this*. Take the challenge of information technology, for example. *By 2005* expert systems will have enhanced the productivity of professionals and will be invaluable for decision support in specialist areas such as taxation, technical work and litigation support.

Of course, third-party access to the same knowledge bases may reduce the reliance on professional advisers. But the knowledge bases will still need to be developed, maintained and accredited for third-party use. "Therefore we believe that management of the technology, and of the information itself, will become a key opportunity for accountants," the report says.

Whether accountants will relish or embrace the role of technology and information manager, and whether they will prove better suited to it than other *professionals* remains an open question. Certainly, *if this paper (and we* were alert enough to admit that *all forecasts are likely to be less* than totally accurate) is on the *right track, accountants will* become used to working closely *with other professionals and to* upgrading and broadening *their skills continually*.

The challenge for all will be *to match their knowledge base* to the pace of change, just as it *was for those 65 employees of* the Bank of England who had *to come to terms* with their sparkling new Burroughs.

David Stewart is chairman of the 2005 Working Party.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

David Stewart fears demand for accountants will diminish

Finance faculty to the rescue

[redacted]

THE decision by the English ICA council *to form a faculty to* cater for people in corporate *finance could be very fortunate.* The institute's consultative document on where accountants will be in 2005 was published a few days later and is somewhat gloomy about the future of accountants in corporate finance. "American experience," says the report, "suggests that lawyers could become a significant competitive force." To retain their competitive edge, it suggests, accountants will "need a wide range of contacts". Like a corporate finance faculty, for example.

Boxing clever

IT IS early days, but rumours are already flying about who will be standing in the next round of English ICA elections. Whoever wins would carry the place into the next century. The assumption has been that Dame Sheila Masters, of KPMG and the Bank of England, is a racing certainty. Having the institute's first woman president at the dawn of the new millennium is the sort of thing that public relations people love. Rumour has it that Graham Ward, of Price Waterhouse, the genial giant long saddled with having once been heavyweight boxing champion at Oxford, is likely to stand against her. No one can make out whether it is because losing at your first attempt, as Masters did this year, is becoming the route to success, or whether he really means it. Nominations are not due until January. So there is plenty of time for politicking.

LAST WEEK'S English ICA council meeting had the longest agenda for months. A cynical council member observed: "It's time for the budget to be agreed. They will let us argue for hours about everything else, then leave five minutes for discussion of the budget." Surely not.

ROBERT BRUCE

New breed to evolve from the old guard

ONE of the most enduring statistics about accountants *is the one that supposedly proves* that at the profession's current rate of growth the entire nation will be accountants by the end of the next century. Fortunately, nothing as gruesome as that is likely. But, as a report published this week shows, there may well be far too many accountants by the year 2005.

This is not necessarily a problem. The human race, and even the accountancy profession, possesses an extraordinary ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The report *Added-value Professionals — Chartered Accountants in 2005*, is one of the best things the English ICA has done in years. The intention is to provoke debate and then, when consultation has been completed by mid-March next year, a further report on precisely what to do about the direction in which accountants are headed, however unwillingly, will be produced.

Inevitably people will concentrate on the numbers. In the ten years to 1995, the worldwide membership of the six UK accounting bodies rose 45 per cent to 234,000. Within the UK, membership *within the six bodies rose 40* per cent to 179,000. By 2005 *the report expects there to be* around 250,000 UK-based *accountants*.

The English ICA currently *has 109,500 members*. Using what might be presumed to be the 'worst-case' figures *in* the report, there could be *146,500 by the year 2005*.

When it comes to age *profiles, the story gets worse.* The average age of an English ICA *member in 2005* will be over 45. There would be 33,000 *under* 35, 38,000 between 36 and 44, 30,000 between 45 and 54, and 24,000 between 55 and 64. The profession will *accurately reflect its times. An ageing nation* will have ageing accountants.

But the rest of the *report puts this* into perspective. All those accountants drifting towards an *uncertain retirement* would be depressed indeed if the profession was likely to *remain* the same. But, as the report indicates, there is huge change not just on the way, but already here. And most of the changes have proved to be opportunities.

The reason accountancy is the dominant profession today is because accountants have adapted and expanded the profession's circle of influence and work until it now encompasses virtually all of business activity.

The report shows areas where problems lie ahead. Small firms will have problems. Compliance work *in tax and auditing will* shrivel as competition grows and regulation lifts. The number of medium-sized firms will continue to fall. Tax accountants will find their compliance work vanishing into computer systems. Accountants in business will find much of the number crunching of management accounting vanishing the same way.

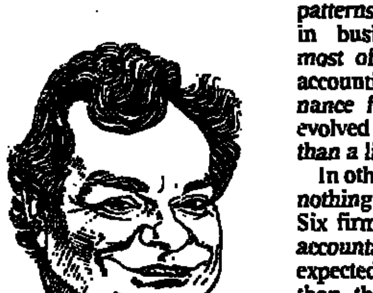
But there are silver linings in all of these areas. Tax compliance may dry up. But advisory work will continue to expand as long as the business and financial world see innovation as a competitive edge. Tax will become a strategic discipline. Small accounting firms, if bright enough, will find plenty of work from another trend — small entrepreneurial businesses are *multiplying* and are expected to do so for years to come.

Accountants in business will find work expanding as financial reporting moves swiftly to a real-time solution. *And as last* week's institute report on changing work *patterns shows, accountants* in business are spending *most of their time on non*-accounting matters. The *finance function has already* evolved to a strategic rather *than a line role.*

In other areas, there will be *nothing but growth. The Big* Six firms will employ fewer *accountants, but growth is* expected to remain "faster *than the underlying economy*". The public sector, which *is still only just poking a* startled nose into the real *world of how efficient* businesses are run, will soak up *financial expertise* for years to come. The whole area of *risk management* and control within companies will continue to expand. The problems will come in the current 'sexy' parts of accounting. Corporate finance is likely to be taken over by the lawyers, for example.

However, the overall trend should move the accountants' way. People no longer seek the *security* of a job for life as much as they did in more subdued times. The younger accountants now do not expect to stay with the firm with which they trained. They expect to build a portfolio career. They are brighter and more adaptable, and running or advising small but highly effective companies is a lucrative business.

That is where the growth of business worldwide will be over the next decade. In fact, it may prove useful that there are more accountants around to cope with it.



[redacted]

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal — Law Report November 14 1996 — Court of Appeal

Lawyers cannot rely on disclaimer

First National Commercial Bank plc v Loxleys (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Waller and Sir John May

[Judgment November 6]

Conveyancing solicitors inaccurately replying to *inquiries before* contract on the standard "Oyez" form were not, by relying on the printed disclaimer from liability, entitled to have a negligence action brought against them struck out for disclosing no reasonable cause of action.

The issue was not suitable to be determined under the summary judgment procedure of Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court because under section 11 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 the solicitors had to establish that it was fair and reasonable for them to rely on the disclaimer *having* regard to all the circumstances and that *required consideration at a* trial of the particular facts, going much wider than the fairness and reasonableness of the disclaimer itself.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff bank, First National Commercial Bank plc, and directing a trial of *the action to take place*, from the judgment of Judge Tibber, sitting as a *judge* of the High Court, in February 1996 whereby he had struck out its claim against a firm of solicitors, Loxleys, for *disclosing* no reasonable cause of action.

The disclaimer printed on the Oyez form provided "These replies ... are given on behalf of the proposed vendor and without responsibility on the part of his solicitors .... They are believed to be correct but *the accuracy is not* guaranteed and they do not obviate the need to make appropriate searches, inquiries and inspections."

Mr James Townend, QC and Mr Stephen Shay for the bank; Mr Mark H. Lomas for the solicitors.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that before the judge and on appeal the matter had by consent of the parties been treated as an application under Order 14A, rule 1.

The bank claimed *damages* against the solicitors for negligent mis-statement in replying to inquiries before contract in a mortgage transaction in 1988 between a client of the solicitors as borrower and the bank as lender, the amount of the loan being £1.2 million. The solicitors were not acting for the bank which was being represented in that transaction by its legal department.

The inquiries before contract were made on a standard Oyez form which appeared to have been introduced on the initiative of the the Law Society following the decision in *Wilson v Bloomfield* ([1979] 123 Sol J 860).

For present purposes the solicitors accepted that some of the replies were incorrect. The bank claimed that in consequence it suffered a loss on the realisation of its security and was out of pocket by some £1.5 million.

Mr Lomas contended: that the solicitors owed no duty of care to the bank: further or alternatively, *that the disclaimer absolved them* from any such duty and that it was *fair and reasonable* to allow them to rely on it for the purposes of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.

Mr Lomas submitted that not only could the duty of care issue be decided as a discrete point, but that it ought to be so decided. It was, he *said, only if that question* was answered in the affirmative that it would become *necessary* to consider the effect of the disclaimer.

For that *proposition* he relied on observations of Lord Griffiths in *Smith v Eric S. Bush* ([1990] 1 AC 831, 857) in regard to sections 11(3) and 13(1) of the 1977 Act.

But the law had moved on, or perhaps back, since that case. In *particular the House of Lords in Henderson v Merrett Syndicates Ltd* ([1995] 2 AC 145, 180G to 181E) had rehabilitated the "assumption of responsibility" concept adopted in *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd* ([1964] AC 465).

In this uncertain state of the law the duty of care point could not be decided as a discrete point. It was at least possible that the existence or not of such a duty would be held to depend partly on the effect of the disclaimer. It was not therefore suitable to be *determined under* Order 14 unless the disclaimer issue was also suitable for such determination. Mr Lomas said that it was: the solicitors had surmounted the hurdle of establishing that it was fair and reasonable to allow them to rely on *the disclaimer. He pointed out that* the disclaimer appeared on the *face of a standard published* document widely available and widely used in conveyancing transactions throughout the country since 1984 and perhaps earlier.

In the majority of cases, he said, those who used the form were solicitors who had to be taken to be aware of the subjection of the disclaimer to the requirement of reasonableness and yet who chose *to use it*.

But, paying due regard to section 11(3) of the 1977 Act, the question was not whether the disclaimer was fair and reasonable, but whether it was fair and reasonable to allow the solicitors to rely *on it, having regard to all the* circumstances.

That seemed to let in a consideration of the particular facts of particular cases and to go much wider than the fairness and reasonableness of the disclaimer itself.

Neither the duty of care issue nor the *disclaimer issue* was suitable to be determined under *Order 14A*.

Lord Justice Waller and Sir John May agreed.

Solicitors: Stewarts; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Sentence takes effect when pronounced

egina v Grimsby and leethorpes Justices, Ex pare Walters

efore Lord Bingham of Cornhill, ord Chief Justice and Mr Justice lofeld

udgment October 22]

sentence of imprisonment, for e purposes of section 82(3)(a) of e Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, ok effect when it was ronounced.

Where, *therefore, justices* had nposed a term of imprisonment respect of substantive offences, ey could properly proceed nmediately to sentence the ofnder to a consecutive term of nprisonment for non-payment of nes and a compensation order nce he was "already serving a rm of imprisonment" within the eaning of section 82(3)(a).

The Divisional Court so held, ismissing an application by enneth Walters for judicial rew of the decision of the Grimsby d Cleethorpes Justices on Febary 8, 1996 to commit him to ison *for 28 days for failure* to pay es, costs and a compensation der.

Immediately prior to passing at sentence the justices had posed a term of one month in ison for obtaining by deception, e month for attempting to comit such an offence, to be served ncurrently, and one month, to be served consecutively, for driving while disqualified.

Mr Ian Wise for *the applicant*; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE *said that* Mr Wise had accepted that there could be no possible *objection to the justices' reliance on* section 82(3)(a) if the sentence for the substantive offences had been passed on one day and the 28-day term imposed the following day, or if one sentence had been imposed in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

Mr Wise had also acknowledged that where a defendant was sentenced to imprisonment for one day the familiar practice was that the day was treated as expiring at the end of the court sitting.

None the less he had submitted that the imposition of the two-*month sentence did not mean that* the applicant was "already serving a term of imprisonment" when the justices imposed the consecutive 28-day sentence.

His Lordship said that if the two-month sentence imposed on the applicant at the outset of the sentencing did not take effect there and then, *it was extremely difficult* to see when it did begin.

The justices had therefore been correctly advised by their clerk that if they were to impose a sentence of imprisonment on the applicant for the substantive of*fences he would then fall within* the wording of section 82(3)(a).

That appeared to be a novel question which had never engaged the attention of the court before, but, in his Lordship's judgment, it was not shown that the justices had erred in the construction which they had put on that section.

He would dismiss the application.

Mr Justice Blofeld agreed.

Solicitors: Chattertons, Boston

Illicit cross-examination

Regina v Carter

The prohibition in section 1(f) of the Criminal Evidence Act 1898 on questioning a defendant so as to impeach his character was not confined to cross-examination showing him to have a criminal record. It included cross-examination tending *to show him to be of* bad character, which encompassed both reputation and *disposition, not merely credit*.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Sedley and Judge Wickham) so stated on November 8, in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of Colin Mark Carter against his conviction on June 7 at Lincoln Crown Court (Mr Recorder Ashton and a jury) on *obtaining property by deception*.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that the appellant was cross-examined about a recent civil suit *against him. The purpose was* to show him to be of a dishonest *disposition. That should not have* been embarked upon or permitted to continue.

Cross-examination of an accused designed to show that he was unworthy of belief not arising *from evidence relating to the* indictment, related to character in *the sense of disposition and so fell* within section 1(f). No such cross-*examination might be embarked* upon without leave of the court, *which might not be given* unless one of the three conditions set out under section 1(f) was satisfied.

If leave was given, both judge and prosecution had a discretion to limit the use to be made of it, and a duty to use that discretion to avoid unfair suggestions of propensity or inquiry into the irrelevant.

When business tenancy ceases

Esselte AB and Another v Pearl Assurance plc

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John May

[Judgment November 8]

A tenancy for a term of years certain which the tenant had ceased to occupy for business purposes before the expiration of that term determined at the expiration of the contractual term, not on the later expiration of a notice given by the tenant to the landlord pursuant to section 27 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, contrary to its *previous decision in Longacre Securities Ltd v Electro Acoustic Industries Ltd* ([1990] 1 EGLR 91), in allowing an appeal by the defendant, Pearl Assurance plc, from a declaration to the contrary effect by Judge Colyer, QC, sitting *as judge of the High Court*, in relation to tenancies granted to the defendant by the plaintiffs, *Esselte AB and British Sugar plc*.

Section 23 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 provides: "(1) ... this Part of this Act applies to any tenancy where the property comprised in the tenancy is or includes premises which are occupied by the tenant ... for the purposes of a business..."

Section 24 provides: "(1) A tenancy to which this Part of this Act applies *shall not come to an end* unless terminated in accordance with the *provisions* of this Part of this Act..."

Section 27 provides: "(1) Where the tenant under a tenancy to which this Part of this Act applies ... *gives to the immediate landlord* ... a notice in writing that the *tenant does desire the tenancy to be* continued, section 24 of this Act shall not have effect in relation to the tenancy..."

Mr Paul Morgan, QC and Mr Wayne Clark for Pearl; Mr Jonathan Brock for the landlords.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the question for decision was whether a tenancy for a term certain to which Part II of the 1954 Act once applied of property which Pearl had ceased to occupy for the purpose of its business before the expiration of that term determined at the expiration of the contractual term or only on the later expiration *of a notice given by Pearl to its* immediate landlords, the plain*tiffs, pursuant to section 27 of the* Act.

By his *order* made on May 9, 1995, the judge had declared that the tenancy determined on June 24, 1993 at the expiration of the notice given by Pearl to the landlords on January 15, 1993 pursuant to section 27. Pearl contended that the judge should have declared that the tenancy *determined on the earlier expiration* of the term on February 15, 1993.

On September 18, 1989 Esselte, as the tenant of part, and British Sugar as the subtenant of another part of Guild House, Oundle Road, Peterborough, executed a lease and an underlease respectively demising those parts to Pearl *for a term of five years commencing* on February 15, 1989 and expiring on February 14, 1993. In each case the substantial rent was payable in advance. The judge held that by December 6, 1992 Pearl had ceased to occupy Guild House *for the purposes of its* business within section 23 of the 1954 Act.

Two notices were served under section 27 of the Act by Pearl on each of the landlords on January 16, 1993 to determine both tenancies on June 24, 1993. It was common ground that they were *effective if, contrary to the sub*missions of Pearl, the tenancies had not determined earlier.

Pearl paid the rent due up to February 14, 1993. The landlords claimed that it should also pay rent up to June 24, 1993 and commenced proceedings *for the purpose of enforcing such a liability.* The *master* ordered the trial of a preliminary issue whether the tenancies terminated on February 15, 1993, June 24, 1993 or on some other date.

The answer to *that question* depended on the true construction of the *relevant provisions* of the 1954 Act as amended by the Law of Property Act 1969.

The judge concluded that the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Longacre Securities v Electro Acoustic Industries* was binding authority for the conclusion that the tenancies did not determine until the expiration on June 24, 1993 of the notices given pursuant to section 27 by Pearl on January *15, 1993*.

Pearl submitted that the judge *was wrong. It relied on the terms* of the Act and earlier authorities as demonstrating that the tenancies determined by effluxion of time on February 14.

There was no dispute that the issue was whether a tenant who had ceased to occupy the demised *premises before the end of a fixed* term tenancy none the less continued to be the tenant under Part II of the 1954 Act until either the landlord or the tenant gave to the other a statutory notice to determine the tenancy.

Pearl submitted that the answer was in the negative because there was *nothing* in section 24 to continue the tenancy beyond its fixed term. The landlords contended that the answer was in the affirmative because section 27 was drafted on the assumption that the tenancy would continue unless *brought to an end by service of the* notice which it authorised.

The root of the difference between the two approaches lay in whether the statutory formula "a tenancy to which *this* Part of this Act applies" referred only to the present or *whether it might in all* or some contexts embrace the past so that it should be construed as "a tenancy to which this Part of this Act applies or has applied".

The phrase "a tenancy to which this Part of this Act applies" appeared in *all* the relevant sections except section 26. It appeared to be an abbreviated *reference* to the provisions of section 23 which set out the conditions for the application of Part II.

That section showed that occupation for the statutory purposes was essential: it recognised that such occupation was *likely to* change from time to time while the tenancy endured and provided that the identity of the holding should change with it.

The section was expressed in the present tense and, consistently *with the purpose of the legislation*, could not be construed so as to include the past.

There was no doubt that that conclusion as to the true construction of the Act would be contrary to that reached by the Court of Appeal in the *Longacre* case.

Pearl submitted that the present case came within one or both of *two exceptions to the principle that* the Court of Appeal was bound by *its own decisions*.

The first was that the Court of Appeal was *not only entitled* but bound to choose between two conflicting decisions of the Court of Appeal: the second was that the Court of Appeal was not bound to follow a previous decision of the Court of Appeal if it was satisfied that the decision was given per incuriam.

Pearl relied on the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Morrison Holdings Ltd v Manders Ltd* ([1976] 1 WLR 533 as the previous Court of Appeal decision which should be followed in preference to *Longacre*.

In his Lordship's judgment, the decision in *Morrison* covered ex*actly the same point as the court* had decided in *Longacre* and was a decision which the court in *Longacre* would have been bound to follow had it been referred to it.

In all the circumstances, the decision in *Morrison* should be preferred to that in *Longacre* because it was more consistent *with the wording of the* legislation and accorded with dicta of the most persuasive sort to be found in other cases decided both before and after *Morrison*.

The consequence was that on the true construction of the Act section 24(1) *did not apply to the tenancies* of Pearl on February 14, 1993 when, in accordance with the common law, they expired by effluxion of time.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir John May agreed.

Solicitors: Geoffrey Delany, Peterborough; Theodore Goddard.

Care to be exercised before imposing jail sentence

Regina v Slough Justices, Ex parte Lindsay

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President

[Judgment October 24]

Where an immediate prison sentence was in prospect, great care had to be exercised and all factors taken into account before reaching a decision that there had been "culpable neglect to pay": in particular a defendant should be given a proper opportunity to put his case.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the *Family Division*, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's *Bench Division, so held on an* application for judicial review to *bring up and quash the decision of* Slough Justices on October 4, 1994 to commit John Lindsay, the applicant, to prison for 42 days for failure to pay outstanding maintenance arrears of some £2,500 to his former wife.

Following a history of failure to pay on the original maintenance order made at Slough County Court on July 7, 1988, the applicant was summoned to appear in January 1994.

He did not appear, and in October 1994 was arrested on a warrant not backed for bail.

At the hearing he was not represented, nor was it suggested that he should be. *The large sum* outstanding, his apparent lifestyle, *and his demeanour in court led the* justices to believe that he had been seeking to *evade* his responsibilities and he was sentenced to the maximum period of imprisonment.

Mr Peter Marsh for the applicant: the respondents were not represented.

THE PRESIDENT said that the moral of the story was not to act in haste where immediate imprisonment was likely to result.

Here it was not clearly apparent, even on the justices' affidavit, that there had been culpable neglect to pay. *The applicant had been given* no opportunity to obtain *representation nor to produce* documents to the court and there *had been no prior warning of* possible committal for nonpayment.

In those circumstances the justices had erred in law by making an order for imprisonment without considering a suspended committal order. Accordingly the decision would be quashed and the case remitted to the justices for reconsideration.

Solicitor: David Burrows, Bristol.

UNIT TRUST PRICES

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grotwd Amer	229.60	241.90†		0.14
Grotwd Equity	282.40	300.10	-0.20	1.80
Grotwd Euro	267.80	283.10	-1.40	0.58
Grotwd Expt Bd	131.50	136.30		2.58
Grotwd Gilt	75.97	78.48		6.28
Grotwd Japan	155.30	164.40†	-0.50	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	669.90	712.70	0.30	2.49
General Inc	558.30	594.90	-0.30	2.49
UK Growth Acc	459.70	489.10†	-0.50	2.66
UK Growth Inc	297.60	316.60†	-0.30	2.66
Higher Inc Acc	806.80	858.30†	+0.40	4.10
Higher Inc Inc	429.70	457.20†	+0.20	4.10
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	212.00	223.90	-1.20	5.44
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	92.83	98.05	-0.52	5.44
Nth America	367.20	390.70†	+0.20	
Europe	357.90	380.80	-2.00	0.49
Brit Excell	90.83	96.63†	-0.04	2.82
Brit Fndmntls Acc	115.90	123.30	+0.10	4.59
Brit Fndmntls Inc	77.50	82.45	+0.08	4.59
Global Opps	100.70	107.20†	-0.20	
Balanced Acc	63.12	67.15†	-0.07	2.57
Balanced Inc	58.87	62.63†	-0.07	2.57
Japan Acc	42.19	44.89†	-0.20	
Pac Basin Acc	391.20	416.20†	-1.90	0.87

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed Int	132.30	140.40	-0.10	6.95
High Inc Equity	182.40	195.10†	+0.30	3.42
Worldwide Bond	274.80	291.40†	-0.30	5.06
American Growth	383.60	410.30	-0.60	0.30
Asian Pacific	319.20	341.40	+2.40	0.08
Assets & Earnings	302.10	323.10†	-0.20	2.06
Euro Capital Acc	186.50	199.50	-0.50	0.79
Extra Inc	43.02	45.77†	-0.08	7.83
General	279.70	297.60	-0.80	2.96
Global Opps	68.58	72.96	-0.03	0.55
Japan	107.20	114.70	-0.50	
Managed Inc	47.90	50.96†	-0.02	4.71
Mastertrust	166.60	178.20		1.03
US Emerging Cos	206.40	219.60	-1.00	
Ethical	81.75	86.97	+0.36	2.50
International	134.60	143.20	-0.20	0.18
Dividend & Growth	68.31	72.67	-0.09	4.22
Global Gwth & Sec	73.80	78.83	-0.03	2.36
Latin America	63.69	67.75	-0.09	
Capital Reserve	146.10	146.10		4.79

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	101.90	108.59	+0.02	1.85
American Portfolio	124.60	132.32	-0.04	1.01
European Portfolio	136.13	144.70†	-0.64	0.83
High Income	51.69	54.82†	-0.13	7.55
Japanese Portfolio	63.66	67.47	-0.06	
Pacific Portfolio	155.65	167.32	+1.04	1.08
UK Equity	96.61	103.24†	+0.17	3.45
UK Equity & Bd	57.43	60.85†	+0.02	6.28
UK Smlr Cos	51.46	55.04	+0.19	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	769.27	780.98		4.38
Fxd Int Sec	157.27	157.91		9.06

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	759.85	771.13		4.35
Investment Acc	535.02	536.55		
Fixed Int Inc	126.88	127.38		9.11
Fixed Int Acc	231.09	232.01		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	90.00	94.86†	+0.44	3.95
Beck Bio-Tech	43.13	45.87		
Acorn Ethical Tst	186.63	195.98		2.45
City Fin Assets	79.42	83.40†		2.31
City Fin Intl	88.83	93.28†	-0.11	0.46
Friars Hse Cap	314.38	334.45		2.52
Beckley Wrld Gth	135.80	143.96	-1.67	
J Sid Inc-Gth Inc	56.08	58.89		3.25
Shaw Utilities	56.89	57.86†	+0.08	6.29

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	53.12	56.36	-0.24	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	80.46	85.60	-0.30	
Dragon Growth	71.38	76.34	+0.37	0.37
Equity High Inc	88.99	95.33	+0.19	4.23
-do- Accum	128.80	137.98	+0.27	4.23
Extra Income Inc	26.50	28.00†	+0.03	7.48
Extra Income Acc	29.36	30.81	-0.03	7.48
European Gwth	63.42	67.29	+0.01	0.86
Evergreen	31.43	33.61	-0.06	0.02

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Glob Emg Mkts	91.11	94.86	-0.03	
-do- Accum	91.75	95.52	-0.04	0.11
SE Asia	344.20	358.40	+3.10	0.17
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	52.45	54.87	-0.11	6.53

JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sectrs Value Inc #	103.70	109.40†		3.78
Sectrs Value Gwth	105.20	110.90†	-0.10	2.16
Hy 5 Europe	101.10	106.00	+0.20	2.77
Slater Gwth	177.80	187.60†	+0.10	0.61
New Japan	94.12	99.12	-0.05	0.01

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	192.70	204.90	-0.20	..
Income #	217.88	231.79	+0.36	4.18
UK Growth	86.39	91.89	-0.11	1.86

Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01909 284 831

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	98.53	104.81†	-0.27	1.06
Intl Bond	63.57	68.78†		5.20
Intl Equity Growth	84.92	90.17†	+0.21	0.75
N Amer Growth	138.38	146.92	-0.13	0.82
Special Sits Growth	28.00	29.78	+0.20	1.89
UK Growth	461.63	493.30†	+0.09	2.58
-do- Accum	637.79	678.49	+0.09	2.56

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1427.90	1449.80†	...	2.90
Income #	1029.80	1045.00	...	4.00

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon Bearsd	166.30	178.10	.	3.56

ELIZABETH GAGE
Goldsmith

'Shiraz' earrings in 18ct yellow gold with wire and granulation, diamonds and cultured pearls.

20 ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON W1X 4LB
Telephone 0171 499 2879 Facsimile 0171 495 4550

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	86.18	91.68	+0.24	0.45
Ecology	102.51	109.05†	+0.70	0.87
European	207.49†	220.65	+0.02	0.58
Far Eastern	299.40	316.40	-0.70	..
UK Special Sits	53.48	57.04†	-0.04	.

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers, 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.40	104.90	+0.30	7.09
Gilt Yield	118.80	125.30	-0.50	6.87
Global Income	229.60	244.30†	-0.90	3.62
High Yield	151.80	161.50†		5.77
-do- Accum	503.00	535.10†	-0.20	5.77
Smlr Cos. Div	62.20	66.17†	+0.08	3.42
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	155.90	165.90	-1.00	.
Asian Growth	320.90	341.40	+0.50	..
-do- Accum	377.10	401.20	+0.70	..

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Ptflo	178.70	184.20	-0.30	2.52
-do- Accum	212.10	218.70	-0.30	2.52
UK Sel Ptflo	158.60	163.50	+0.10	2.51
-do- Accum	191.20	197.10	+0.10	2.51
UK 100 Cos	116.10	118.18	+0.10	2.86
-do- Accum	119.20	118.20	.	2.86

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	74.24	78.98	.	3.58

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	83.47	88.61	+0.44	3.49
European	106.10	112.80	+0.30	0.65
Income #	83.70	88.85†	+0.28	4.12
Nth American	101.30	107.50	-0.30	0.22
Far East	175.60	186.40	+1.20	0.08

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
236	221	Br Inv	226½		3.0	35.1
77½	67	Brazilian	72½	+1	2.8	...
291	259	Brunner	285½		2.8	...
132	113	BZW Conv	124½		7.8	14.8
578½	468	Candover	573½		2.8	34.5
68	39	Central Euro Gwth	60½		0.9	...
224½	177	Contl Asset	218		1.7	...
75	62	Dares Inv Inc	68	+½	15.2	7.1
405	325	Derby Cap	385			
160½	136	Derby Inc	160		17.6	8.3
744	654	Dunedin Inc G	708	-4½	4.9	24.8
372	314	Dunedin Smlr	330	-1½	3.3	43.6
805	709	Dunedin Wwide	804½	-1½	1.5	70.2
115½	85	Edin Dragon	95½	-½	...	...
30½	24½	Edinburgh Inca	24½			
347½	312½	Edinburgh IT	334½	-½	3.0	29.0
177	127½	EFM Japan	132	-1		
420½	362	Electra Inv	414		2.3	68.1
262½	222	Electric Gen	252		1.8	64.4
156	139	English Scot	146			
419½	332	European Asset	388		1.5	61.8
108½	88½	Fidlty Asian Val	95½		...	...
232½	193	Fidlty Euro Val	219½		0.2	...
85½	57	Fidlty Jap Val	58	-½	0.2	...
131	102	Fidlty Spec Val	121		0.5	...
208	171½	Finsbury 'A'	208		2.4	46.4
200½	174½	Five Arr Chile	178½	-½	1.7	53.0
43½	27½	Five Arr Wts	30½			
371½	273	Fleming Amer	368	-1½	0.8	...
129	99	Fleming Cap	118½	-½	...	
68½	54	Fleming Chinese	55½	...	1.1	...
44	17	Fleming Ch Wts	17			
289½	250	Fleming Claver†	273½		3.0	34.6
404	343	Fleming Contl	389		1.3	
168	116½	Fleming Em Mkts	117½	-1	0.3	
273	233½	Fleming Enlp	234		2.8	28.6
304	282	Fleming F East	294½	-1	0.6	
464	385	Fleming Fledg	427½	-2½	0.9	
111½	95	Fleming Hi Inc	108½		5.5	20.8
109¾	100¼	Fleming Income	108½		10.9	11.5
71½	42¼	Fleming Indian	43¼	+¼	...	
41	20½	Fleming In Wts	21½			
43	36½	Fleming Intnl	37		13.5	9.4
290	213½	Fleming Japan	219	-2½		
345½	286	Fleming Merc	328	-½	3.0	34.9
123	86	Fleming Nat Res	108	-¼	0.6	
366	317	Fleming Overs	333½	-½	1.7	89.6
147½	128	Fleming Smlr Col	139	-1½	4.0	
50½	29	Fleming Smllr Wt	45½	-½		
171	147	Foreign & Col	152		1.8	70.2
113	99	F&C Inc Gwth	102		4.6	27.0
116	98	F&C Emg Mkts	99½	-½		
123½	85½	F&C Enterprise	123½	+1	1.2	75.8
305½	257	F&C Eurotst	294	-½	0.5	
144	125	F&C German	136½	+1	0.5	
207	172½	F&C Pacific	172½	-1½	1.3	60.1
148½	134	F&C PEP	144½	+½	3.5	33.7
200	172	F&C Smaller	179	+¼	1.6	71.5
147	122½	F&C US Smlr	131½	-½		
58	50	Framlin Inc†	55½		10.8	10.3
70	58	Framlin Cap	63½			
18	12	Fulcrum Cap	12½			
35	28½	Fulcrum Inc	28½		36.8	2.7
177½	161	Fulcrum Zero	174½	-½		
245½	209	Gartmore Brit	243½	-1	4.2	28.5
219	203	Gartmore Enl	217		2.4	42.3
264½	172	Gartmore Euro	193		1.0	
90	69½	Gartmore Shrd	80½		15.0	8.3
317½	243	G'more Smlr Cos	316½		2.3	58.0
88	67	General Inc Inc†	73½		14.7	8.1
201½	151	Genl Cons Cap	189			
107½	100	Genl Inc	107	...	11.5	10.4
110	98	German Inv	106½		0.6	
256	209	Gov Asn Sm Cos	228½	+½	0.3	
121	95½	Gov Emg Mkts	98		0.4	
243	177	Govett Am Smlr	204	-½		
89	84	Gov Glob Smlr	89			
78	65½	Govett High Inc	75		9.3	12.6
228	174	Govett Oriental	174	-1½	0.5	
342½	287	Govett Strategic	337		2.7	
593	437	Greenfriar	469½	-3	1.9	55.9
11	6	Gresham House	9	-2		1.7
105½	93½	GT Inc Growth	104		3.9	
259	193½	GT Japan	195½	-3	1.0	
94	78	Gain Fl Ex Inc	90½		10.6	
44	35	Henderson Am Cp	43½	+¼		
107	100	Henderson Am In	103		9.5	11.6
15	9¼	Henderson Am Wt	14½			
125	103	Hend Highl	108		6.9	18.7
494	364	Hend Strata	468		0.4	
158	127	Herald	139		0.6	
94	71	High Income T	93	-½	8.6	13.6
157	127	H Govett Smlr	149½		2.2	59.7
110½	86½	HOR Jap Smaller	88½	-1½	...	...
17	8	IBS Enl	17			
158½	114	IBS UK Smlr	154		2.4	35.0
149	129	Inv Cap	145	+1½	4.7	25.4
157	99½	Intl Biotech	101½	+½	...	...
78	21½	Intl Wts	24			
115	84	Intl C	90½	+2		66.2
114	93½	INVESCO Asia	99½	+½	0.8	
65	43	INVESCO Bios	47½		22.1	4.9
181	135	INVESCO Eng Int	178	+½	0.7	69.1
92	69	INVESCO Jap Dis	69½	-½		
137	88½	INVESCO Korea	89			
63½	47	INVESCO Tokyo	48½	-1½	...	
95½	65	J Fry 2nd U	76½	-½	12.1	9.2
83	65½	J Fry Euro U	77		7.2	12.4
260	194	JF Fledg Jap	194	-3		
98½	74	Jupiter Er Inc	87		11.5	
7	4	Jupiter Ex IncWt	4½			
93	78	Jupiter Gbl Cap	87½		12.2	18.2
39	24½	Jupiter Gbl Pfd	29½			
128	108	Jupiter Intl Gro	122½		3.8	
299½	252	Klwrt Chrt	283½	+½	2.3	51.6
138	104	Klwrt E Mkt	104½	-1½	...	
162½	133	Klwrt End	157	-1½		
99½	80	Klwrt Euro Pref	97½		2.9	43.1
39	19½	Klwrt Euro Wts	29			
87	74	Klwrt H Inc	87½	+½	14.1	8.6
298	264	Klwrt O'seas	274	...	1.8	73.0
175½	136	Klwrt Smlr	175½		2.4	51.9
587	320½	Korea—Euro	370½	-2½	0.3	
118½	85½	Latin American	100			
1025	913	Law Debenture	963½	-3	3.0	34.3
122½	98	Lloyds Sm Cap	122½			
27	22	Lloyds Sm Div	22½		21.4	6.8
145	126	Lloyds Sm Pkg	145		3.3	
174	151	Lon & St Lawrence	158½		4.9	...
353	289	Lowland	304		4.6	...
690	573	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	640			3.3
114	87	M&G 2nd Dual In	92½	-2½	...	
3320	2903	M&G Dual Cap	3269	-2½		1.9
235	147	M&G Dual Inc	152½		11.1	10.7
68	55	M&G Inc Gwth	59½			
33	27	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	33			
34	26½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	29		23.1	5.2
135	122	M&G Inc Package	131½	-½	5.1	23.5
74½	65½	M&G Inc Zero Div	71½	-½		
26	21	M&G Rec Cap	21½			
52	44½	M&G Rec Grwd	47½		14.3	8.7
27	23	M&G Rec Inc	25		27.3	4.6
180½	133	M&G Rec Pkge	147½		4.6	27.0
101½	88½	M&G Rec Zero Div	99½			
152	114	M Curie Euro	145½		0.6	
112	89	M Curie Japan	90½	-½		
167	143	M Curie Pac	148½		0.8	
244	222	Majedie	241		3.2	37.1
280	235	Merchants†	270		6.0	22.3
107½	91	Mercury Euro Pr	105½	+½	2.3	40.6
33	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	29½			
118	89½	Mercury World	90½	...	1.4	68.2
31	8½	Mercury Wld Wts	10½	+¼		
629½	567	Monks Inv Tst	606	-1	2.0	46.5
170½	151	Morg Gren Inc	155½	...	5.0	...
70½	52½	Morg Wts	54½			
78½	57½	Morg Latn Amer	69½	+¼	0.5	...
32	20	Morg Wts	24½			
131	111	Murray Ent	123½		2.9	
24	16	Murray Ent Wts	19½			
95	75	Murray Emrg Eco	76½	-½	1.5	68.5
35½	17½	Murray Em Ec Wt	18	-½		
68	54	Murray Euro	64		0.7	
382	338	Murray Income	375½	+1½	4.4	27.8
429	377	Murray Intl	406½		3.9	29.7
185½	180	Murray S/C DP	182½	-¾		
174½	135	Murray S/C Cap	167½	+1		
73½	66	Murray S/C Inc†	68	+½	21.0	5.5
3550	2850	Murray S/C Ulst	3300		4.3	
511	434	Murray Small	438½	-½	1.4	64.8
380	355	Murray Vent†	363½		5.0	20.3
9	5½	Newmarket†	5½			
415	363	O'seas Inv Tst	397	+1	1.2	
218	167	O'seas Wts	188	+2		
147	112	Pacific Assets	116	+1½	0.4	
99½	64½	Perpetual Jap	65½	-¼		
353	287	Perpl Uk Sm Co	327½		0.9	89.1
£127	£111½	Personal Assets†	£126½		2.2	43.6
125	103	Pilot Inv	115½		2.2	47.1
127	108	Pacific Inc	124½		4.7	28.6
251½	218	RIT Cap Ptnr	239	+½	0.9	
500	450	Robeco	481		2.5	
542	475	Rolinco	520		1.3	
120½	38½	Schrod Asia Pac	102½	+½		
125	110	Schrod Inc Gwth	121		4.1	
95	65	Schrod Jap Gwth	66½	-1		
927½	529½	Schrod Korea	529½	-17½		
23½	18½	Schrod Split Cap	19½			
108½	92	Schrod Split Inc	104		10.1	12.0
145	128½	Schrod Split Zero	142½	-½		
138½	117	Schrod UK Gwth	127		3.8	24.8
198	181	Schrod Vent Intl	188			
384	254	Scot	278½		2.6	47.9
179½	159	Scot American	170½		3.5	30.2
359	277	Scot Asian	280	+1		
1065	675	Scot Wts	710			
108	92½	Scot Eastern	99½		2.2	51.7
283½	253	Scot Mrgt	274	-½	2.2	45.2
97½	88	Scot Natl Tst	96½	+¼	10.8	
122	108½	Scot Value	116½	-½	2.2	
2082½	1823	Second Alliance	2033		3.0	40.0
99¼	88	Secs Tst of Scot	95		4.8	25.4
147	130	Shires Smlr	137½		5.4	21.8
379	345	St Andrew Inv	367½		3.1	39.7
388	329½	Temple Bar	358½		5.0	22.8
127	90	Thrkn Asian E	110			
58	45	Throg Dual Cp	46½			
83½	73	Throgmorton	78		3.7	43.5
146½	125¼	Tokyo Emg Mkt	131½		1.0	
173	152	TR City Of Lon†	170½		4.3	26.3
264½	193	TR Euro Growth	264	+1	0.8	
193	170	TR Far East	178½		4.8	
135	109	TR High Inc	121		6.6	18.3
131	105½	TR Pacific	106½		0.2	
35½	27½	TR Property	34½		3.8	25.5
239	203½	TR Smlr Cos	222		2.2	41.2
311	187	TR Tech Inv	293½	+1	1.2	38.7
249	180	Turkey Trust	200½		1.4	68.3
144	111	Undervalued Ast	139½	+¼	2.1	51.3
134	124	Value Inc Tst	132½		4.3	29.5
73	65½	Value Real	67½			
92½	77	Voyageur Er Sm	90		0.8	
36	32	Warrants & Val	32			
78	56	Wigmore	72½		1.5	77.7
276½	248	Witan	269½	-¼	3.1	39.4
84	74	Yeoman Inc	83½	+½	21.6	5.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
429	355	AB Food	425	-2½	2.8	13.7
284	233	Acatos & Hutch	262½		4.3	21.5
68	38½	Albert Fisher†	42½	+¼	11.0	18.4
325	265	Banks (S G)	295	...	4.7	10.4
343	313	Barr (AG)	325	...	3.2	25.5
38	21	Benson Crsp	32½		1.0	8.3
411½	345	Booker†	402½	-2½	7.4	13.8
38	27½	Borthwick	38	-1½	5.9	34.8
587	222½	CPL Aromas	225	-2½	2.7	12.2
587	469½	Cadbury-Schwt	503½	-3	4.0	17.0
92	65	Canadian Pizza	80½	-1	7.5	11.8
346	258	Carrs Milling	321	+3	4.2	...
112	86	Claughton	78½		6.9	
302½	171	Cranswick	288½	...	5.7	12.9
205½	182½	Daily Crest Group†	204		5.8	18.1
444	287½	Dalgety†	330½	+9½	8.3	...
44½	39½	Dalziel St	42½		0.8	
272	215	Devro	263½	-6	3.7	26.0
99	88	Finlay (James)	79½		5.8	14.9
287½	185	Geest	247½		4.2	
29	16	Glenfell	17	+½	4.5	11.3
364	278	Greencore	358		2.3	15.1
114	85½	Hazlewood Fds	94	-1	8.9	6.9
197	163½	Hillsdown†	177	-1½	6.7	12.8
69½	53	JJ Grand	62½		8.9	29.1
419	319	Linton Park	354	-1	5.3	12.5
129½	95	Matthews (B)	124		3.7	10.8
231	197½	Nichols (J)	200	-½	4.2	12.6
211	171	Nim Foods	188	-½	5.7	12.6
15	10½	Nrthmbrn Fs	13½		1.4	7.1
118	60	Pascal's	61½			
11	2½	Perryhaven (M)#	3½			
86	67½	Perkins Food†	80	-½	7.8	31.4
67	49½	Plant & Gn	47	-2	5.4	
263	55	Sentry Farm	165	-12½	2.8	11.2
42	18	Stuart Food	21	+1		
498	449	Tate & Lyle	463	-3	4.4	9.6
380	197½	Terred	197½	-2½	3.6	8.4
482	382	Unigate	459½	+½	3.5	11.1
1411	1172½	Unilever	1364½	-2	3.0	17.4
£102½	8575	Unilever (NV)	9837½	+16½	2.5	17.5
274	198	Utd Biscuit	203½	-1	6.0	43.4
34	24½	WT Foods	29½		6.5	17.7
32	20½	Yorkshire Food	23	+1	21.1	...

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
714	361	Airtours	662½	+6	2.7	17.3
58½	37	Ald Leisr	54		1.2	42.3
55	40½	Arcadian	46½		2.5	59.8
198	125	BS Group	186	+13½	3.0	...
173	95½	Baldwin	130		3.8	9.3
239	214½	Barr & Wall	218½	+2	6.3	13.5
363	140	Bluebird Toys†	156½		7.1	8.5
813	478	Boosey Hwks	807½		1.1	37.2
7¾	1½	Brent Walker	2½			
39	31	Burndene	33½		7.2	13.5
248	179	Capital Corpn	194	+7½	5.2	31.6
88	50	Clevedon	69		2.9	13.4
85	55	Clubhaus	82½			
251	160	Eurocamp	191½	+2½	7.2	9.2
288	124	Euro Disney	125½	+½		
200½	138½	Euro Leisure▲	157½			4.1
19	11¼	Famoyland	11½			
86	49½	First Choice	55½	...	8.2	
480	342	First Leisure	342		2.9	19.9
190	142	Friendly Hotels†	163		4.4	20.8
889	619	Granada	884½	+6½	1.7	22.4
57	25	Hi-Tec Sports	36	-½		14.4
245½	148	Hornby	243½	...	2.3	
553	423	Havelock	436½		2.6	16.0
193	155	Jarvis Hotels	159½			
301½	201	Jurys Hotel	259	-¼	3.1	...
31½	19½	Kenick	[illegible]	-¼	4.1	16.8
213	143	Ladbroke†	198½	+2½	3.8	26.3
332	212½	London Clubs	331	+2	2.9	22.0
505	186	Man Utd†	505		1.3	
96½	77½	Mandarin Ornt	87½	-¼	3.6	20.2
353½	278	Millennium & Cop	349		0.3	26.0
182½	88	Northern†	162		3.3	16.5
146	114	Prism Leisure	126½		5.7	7.4
38	28	Queensborough	29			
32	11½	Queens Moat	15½	-¼		
547	308	Rank Org	472	-6	4.9	13.7
47	31	Ryan Hotels £†	39½		5.5	7.9
1462½	938	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1462½	+12½	1.2	57.1
215	177½	Signet (Wmt)	200		5.0	12.5
115	80	Stakis	99½		2.9	19.6
373	167½	Stanley Leisure	350	+7	3.1	26.9
20½	10	Tamdon	17			
348	345	Tanyarg	345		1.4	23.3
177	155	Thistle Hotels	166	+½	2.8	17.9
560	223½	Tottenhm Hotsp	553½	-¼	1.5	14.1
130	85	Toy Options	102½	-½	3.1	12.9
350	257	VCI†	302½		3.0	17.2
138	85½	Vardon†	85½		2.4	14.5
412½	305	Wembley	363½	-3		13.4
130	107½	Zetters Gp	105½		11.5	10.8

MEDIA

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615	455	Abbott Mead	612½		2.0	31.0
365	165	Adscene	176½		6.0	11.8
66	37½	Aegis Gp	57½		9.4	19.4
140	81½	Atlantic Telecom	122½			
21	14	BBB Design©	25			29.6
425	273	Barbour Index	336		3.5	39.1
9	5½	Bakable	6½			
355	325	Black (A&C)	347½	-2½	5.0	12.2
502	238	Blenheim Gp	435½		2.6	16.4
318	248	Border TV	305½	-1	2.4	20.9
433	355	Bristol	431½		4.1	23.0
697	335	BSkyB†	521	-8	1.3	35.8
188	132½	CIA Gp	141½	-2	1.9	16.4
734	533	Capital Radio	556	+3½	2.9	18.7
534	379½	Carlton Comm	495		2.6	16.4
558	363	Chrysalis	502½		0.7	
93	75	City of Lon	85		7.5	12.4
138	80	Cordiant	97½	...		...
1731½	1300	Daily Mail	1425		1.6	34.7
1552½	1163½	Daily Mail 'A'	1312½		1.7	32.0
646	480	Dorling Kindt	543½	+1	1.0	34.7
795	530	EMAP	758½	+1½	2.0	26.1
1488	1089	EMI	1258½	+21	2.7	37.9
1091	845½	Elsevier	1004½	-8	2.1	28.4
1339	1030	Euromoney Pb	1310		4.2	25.0
43½	19	Flex	38½		...	10.3
685	440	Flextech	565	+15		
251	198	G&T Group#	223		3.3	15.6
259½	169½	GWR Gp	169½	-2½	1.8	25.8
314½	200	[illegible] Group	291½	-1	1.6	15.9
39	18	Goodhead†	29½		0.8	24.1
327½	217	Grampian†	310½		2.4	25.3
401	284	HTV Group†	385		1.3	32.9
335	272½	Haynes Pub	320		4.0	14.8
27	17	Highbury Hse	20			
260	198	Hodder H'line	221½	-3½	3.7	22.4
282½	145	Home Counts	261	+1	2.6	29.7
334	273	IBC	285½	+½	3.5	10.7
22½	10½	Incepta	20½			14.1
342½	232	Independent	317½		3.1	37.7
110	95½	Interuropa†	97		5.0	...
207½	134½	Johnston Press	179½	-4½	1.6	19.0
32½	13	Lopex	27		2.5	
343	142	MAID	247½	-7		
330	220	Maiden	308½		2.0	36.7
71	37½	Mediakey†	37½		3.2	
1265	647	Metal Bulletin	1235		1.7	38.2
155	108	Midland Ind	132	-½	3.4	20.2
241	175	Mirror Gp	224½	-2	2.3	16.6
720	455	More Grp	662½		2.7	19.0
393	308	News Corp	324	-8½	0.4	8.9
305½	255	News Corp Pref	286	-5½	1.3	
224½	65	On Demand Info	68½	+1		
42	20	Osprey Comms	29½			
768	594	Pearson	715½	-14	3.0	28.7
205	70	Phonelink	98½	-1½		
740	575	Portsmth Sund	725		2.2	15.1
316	249	Quarto	292½		3.2	11.8
1220	980	Reed Intl	1113	-10½	2.8	19.9
814	586	Reuters	740½	-6	2.1	21.9
402	286	Scot Radio	357½		2.4	22.3
806	468	Scot TV	724		3.1	27.0
57½	36	Shandwick	49½		3.3	8.7
58	16	Sleepy Kids	22½		0.6	8.4
435½	267	Southnews	424½		1.7	27.6
30½	23	Sterling Pub	27½			
55	35	Taylor Nelson†	54½		1.7	25.7
175	113	Television Cp	180		1.6	...
1229½	865	Thomson Corp†	1202½	+8½	3.8	25.2
459	342	Trinity Intl	424½	+1	3.2	23.1
278	180	Ulster TV	208½		2.8	20.3
756	555	United News†	685	+7½	4.2	30.4
140	84½	VTR	85		6.7	8.4
263	206	Visual Action	229½		2.6	18.2
246½	157	WPP†	224½		0.8	19.4
100½	65	Wilmington	99		0.3	30.7
1315	680	Yorkshire TV	1297½		1.6	37.2

MINING

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7600	3800	Ang Am Coal	4365½	-18½	3.0	..
4990½	3431¼	Ang Am	3471½	-28½	2.1	
7387½	5137½	Ang Am Gold†	5231¼	-34½	2.7	..
27½	13½	Anglo Pac Res©	23½	..		
37	23	Arcon Intl	32½			
1805½	950	Ashanti	968½	+18½	2.3	13.3
121	80	Ashton	89½	+2	6.3	..
595	172½	Bakyrchik	194	+½	..	
698½	445½	Beatrix	446	-1½	3.8	..
33	27½	Bisichi	29		3.2	..
148½	82	Blyvoors	82			
43	26	Bougainville	43	+2		
21¼	8½	Bracken	9½		6.8	
2½	0½	Bulle	0½			
1142	879	CRA	911½	-8½	3.1	21.2
320	93	Central Pacific	309½	-1		
210	113½	Cons Murchison	113½	-½	4.0	4.2
2269½	1721½	De Beers	1725	-12½	2.5	23.2
94½	44½	Deelkraal	45	-¼		
1109½	700½	Driefontein	780½		2.4	46.3
749	527	Durban	529½	+2½		
191	109½	E Rand Gold†	109½	-½	15.3	6.5
77½	22½	E Rand Prop	22½	...		
102	62	Eastern Trans	72		1.4	
471½	317½	Elandsrandt	332½	-1½	2.3	43.0
380	178½	Eng China Clt	182½	-1½	11.4	14.6
777½	489½	FS Const	551½	+16	1.3	77.7
58	28½	FS Dev	54½	-½	1.7	
2543½	1712½	GFSA	1853½	+9½	1.5	46.6
282½	194	Gencor	304½	-½	1.6	15.1
170	120	Gold Fields Prop	124½	-½	6.2	10.7
17	11	Greenwich R 'A'	13½	-½		8.1
264	106	Grootvlei	107	-½	4.2	28.3
179½	103	Gwalia Cons	133½	-½	0.7	20.0
887½	473½	Harmony	474½	-1½		
260½	145½	Hartes	147½	-½	8.8	
1500	721½	Impala Plat	743½	-3½	1.7	
118	69½	[illegible]	69½	-2½	17.3	6.3
993½	462½	Kinross†	484½	+12½	2.1	..
979½	508½	Kloof	551½	+13	2.3	53.4
93½	53	Leslie†	55		7.1	
330½	185½	Loraine	186	-½	..	
48	15	Metallica	28½			
120	71½	MIM	74½	-1½	3.2	
2025	1253½	Minorco	1268½	+12½	3.0	12.3
132	68	Monarch	73	+2		
180	145	Monteagle	162		2.6	42.5
78	26	NSM	52½	-1	3.6	
130	78	Normandy	79½	-½	3.6	13.9
211	165	Nth Brkn Hill	168½	-1	3.2	24.4
410	213	Petaling Tin	370		0.2	
155	67	Placer Pac	69½	-½	4.1	
625	473	RJB	535	-3	4.3	7.8
1080	867	RTZ	971	+8½	3.6	15.6
64	46	Rockwood†	55		6.8	12.9
642	292½	Randfontein	302½	-1½	5.5	25.8
360	249½	Renison	251½	-2½	1.9	10.5
1478½	881½	Rustenbgt	900	+3½	3.6	19.8
48	33	St Barbara	38		3.8	9.5
597½	349½	St Helena	378	+½	4.1	20.3
580	390	Sons Gwalia	398	-2½	3.3	71.5
131	35	Sthrn Pacific	128½	-2½	..	
3040½	1721½	Southvaal†	2108½	+6½	4.2	23.7
103½	45½	Stilfontein	45½	-½		
7406½	4090½	Vaal Reefs	4490½	+75	3.2	31.6
17½	14½	Wankie Col Z	16		9.5	
2	0½	Water Hall	0½			
560	430	[illegible]	432½		4.4	14.5
3656½	1821½	Western Deep†	2040½	+75	2.3	43.9
519½	356½	Western Mng	356½	+½	2.7	22.0
737½	350	Winkels	371½		3.5	22.1
78½	30	Zambia Copper	77½	-½		

OIL & GAS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
99½	51	Abbot Group▼	98½		1.2	34.8
5	1½	Alliance Res#	2			
67	38	Aus Oil & Gas	66½	-¼		
45	23	Aviva Pet	40½			
680	319½	Br Borneo	608½	-4	1.6	26.9
267½	171½	British Gas†	198½	+6	9.1	16.2
704½	512½	Br Petroleum†	652	-6	3.5	20.3
3½	1½	Bula Resources	2½			
1179½	933	Burmah Castrl	1022	-10½	4.2	14.8
396½	112½	Cairn Energy	355½	-½		
301½	230	Calor Gp	286		5.3	38.4
83	56	Clyde Pet	73½	-½	2.0	27.8
18½	7	Coplex Res	10½	+1		
1½	1	Dragon Oil	1½			
28½	19½	Edin Oil & Gs	24½	+¼	1.3	15.3
599	353	Enterprise	551	-1	3.6	30.4
10	6½	Fortune	8½			35.2
21	10½	Gt Western Res	16½			
298½	198	Hardy Oil	257½	-½	0.5	
5½	3	Int Tool & Sup	5			
191	105½	JKX Oil & Gas	117½	-1½		
230	163	LASMO	210	+6½	0.8	..
49½	38	Lasmo Units	43½		23.8	
62½	51	Monument	56½			32.0
3221½	2687½	Norsk Hydro	2937½	-6½	2.0	9.3
27	17	Oceonics	20½			
187½	53	Oil Search	107½	+4½		
46½	27½	Petroz	36½			
34½	26½	Premier	31½		2.0	9.5
56	39	Pittencrieff Re	43		1.5	35.9
782½	379	Ramco Egy©	782½	+57½	0.2	
514	390	Ranger	465½	-12½	4.2	8.3
£107½	8740½	Royal Dtch Ft	9859½	-159½	3.6	19.9
6218½	4283½	Schlumberger	5859½	-46½	1.5	
95	60½	Seafield	61½			
1060½	822	Shell	981½	-10	4.4	20.5
5118½	4109½	Total	4762½	-65½	3.0	18.6
28	13½	XCL	14			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	82½	Aberdeen Trd	92		3.8	18.1
118½	77	BWD	107½		6.2	11.8
54½	34½	Berry Bch Nbl	52½		4.3	8.6
345	252	Botec Inv	283			
285	151	Brewin Dolphin	190		4.9	11.8
805	695	Caledonia	753½		3.0	24.4
2550	1700	Camellia†	2500		1.7	13.0
276	213	Cattles	249	+2	3.6	16.8
42	18	Christie	37½			
147	90	EFT Group	140½	..	2.0	15.4
725	574	EFM	589½		5.3	28.9
118	50½	Exco	55½		16.9	9.4
1280	1075	Henderson Ad	1195	-3½	4.8	17.4
286	217	Invesco	264	-3½	2.3	15.3
97½	79½	Investment Co.	85	...	2.6	24.6
288	228	Ivory Sime	280½		3.7	20.9
230½	183½	Jardine Strat†	191½	-¼	4.6	
172½	98	Johnson Fry	149½	+1	3.3	6.6
395	328	Liberty Intl	380		4.9	22.1
299½	218	Lon Forfaiting	282½	-1	4.8	12.9
261	215	London Pacific	222½	..	7.9	10.6
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	85		3.5	17.9
186	139	Man ED & F	163½	-1½	7.7	7.8
1354	1059	M & G	1102½		3.9	20.5
1164	841	MAM	1163½	+35	4.2	19.3
109	90½	Nat Home Loan	102	...	1.2	4.5
2575	1830	Perpetual	2327½	-10	2.6	20.7
500	395	Provident	467½	..	4.0	17.6
336	310	Rathbone Bs	322½		4.1	14.4
60½	37½	Rutland Tst	53½	-¼	3.0	16.0
105	42	SEC Group	105	+2	5.1	20.6
457	280	S & U	429½	...	4.9	10.7
57	33	Towry Law	45	...		
8	5	Trio Hldgs	5½			

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163½	Brit Biotech	235½	+9		
715	348	Cantab Pharma	590			
693	441	Celltech	482½	-5		
588	224	Chiroscience	355	-6		
447	166	Cortecs	190	-1½		
1094½	767	Glaxo Wellc	948	-11	4.0	13.5
475	252	ML Laboratories©	264	...		
285	208	Medeva	254½	-½	2.0	15.0
248	175½	Peptide Thera	205½			
808	524	Scotia	575	-18	...	
266	183	Shire Pharms	191½	-1		29.0
96	69	SkyePharma	83½			
828	628½	SmKlBchmt	771	-1½	2.5	27.9
532	445	Thorp Ash Inc	470		...	...
633	457½	Vanguard	516	+5		
1768½	1218	Zeneca	1656	+4½	2.4	36.1

PRINTING & PAPER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	127½	AG Holdings▲	150½		5.1	
736	547	API	705		1.8	23.4
140	86½	App Holo	87½			
212	158	Arjo Wiggins†	166	-½	5.6	
295	122½	Aspen Comms©	150	+1	5.2	11.8
422½	339	Bemrose†	407½		4.5	13.6
212½	138	Bingden	211	+3½	1.4	17.9
2725	2037½	Bowater Inc	2109½	-9½		
345½	209½	Bowater Intl	317½	+1	1.1	25.1
770	645	Br Polythene†	732½		2.9	15.7
38	16	Br Thornton	18½			
188	132	Britton Grp†	155	+½	2.5	13.2
245½	191	Bunzl†	233½	-½	3.2	14.5
207½	170½	Capital Inds▼	183½		3.7	12.7
368½	279	Cropper (James)	351½		1.4	27.7
755	568½	De La Rue	568½	-5	5.2	13.4
95	73	Delyn Group#	75		2.4	14.9
187½	131	Dolphin Pack	187½		3.9	15.3
117½	80½	Fairway Group	81½		6.1	13.4
287	198	Ferguson Intl	235	-2½	7.0	12.5
275	145	Filofax	150	-4	2.8	9.4
177	112	Inveresk	147½	-½	4.9	13.2
310	186½	Jarvis Porter	195½	+4	4.3	9.8
574	442½	Low & Bonar	442½	-5½	3.8	12.3
118½	66	MY Holdings	111		2.7	
263	166	Macfarlane	182½	+13½	2.7	15.3
134	86½	Nobo Gp	96½		8.0	7.2
404	282	Photobition	356½	+9	2.3	20.0
201	158	Plysu	164½		5.6	17.1
41	29½	Porter Chadbn	31		1.0	11.2
410	325	REXAM	335	-4½	5.3	16.1
512½	425½	St Ives Grp	479½	..	2.6	17.6
1047½	505½	Sappi	508½	-8½	0.8	
8	2½	Sefil	3			
148	82	Sidlaw	106		2.4	
344	254	Smith David	323½		3.9	10.7
784	147	Smurfit (Jeff)†	164		2.9	5.8
89	74	Sonic	88½		4.3	9.0
284	54	Waco	75	-1	9.8	8.4
280½	196	Waddington	262½		4.5	15.1
481	389	Watmough	417½		2.9	18.1
243	180	Wyndeham	227½	-2½	2.5	16.2

PROPERTY

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
74	57	Allied Lond	69	+1½	7.2	13.0
384½	313	Argent	383½	-1		20.3
78	57½	Arlesion Ests	64	+½	2.9	
157	116	Asda Prop	156½		2.1	22.6
52	37	Ashquay Grp	40½	+1		
239½	208	Billant	219	+1	5.9	15.5
194½	148	Bolby	189	+½	5.3	13.7
25	13	Bolton Gp	15	-½		
47	38	Bourne End	42		3.6	38.5
245	207	Bradford	237	-½	4.1	20.2
484½	376	Br Land	482½	+6	2.2	40.7
194	184	Brixton†	177½	+½	6.2	16.1
148	102½	Burford	143	+3½	1.8	49.9
122	92	CLS Hldgs†	114		5.9	14.7
210½	148	Cap & Regnl	210½	-½	1.6	24.0
342½	216	Cap Shop Ctrs▲	331½	-½	2.9	28.6
200	145	Cardiff Prop	200	+5	1.8	28.6
19½	11½	Carlisle	11½			
17	9	Castly Intl	16	+1½		
269½	170½	Chelsfield	271½	-1	1.3	46.9
549	439	Chesterfield†	541½	-4½	3.1	23.9
120	57	Chestertons Intl	64		5.9	36.9
52½	30½	City Site Ests	50			
8½	5½	CNC Prop†	6½	-¼	5.4	8.2
140½	109	Compco	139½		2.9	20.8
285	210	Con Rdstn	216½	+½	3.7	17.8
1285	1125	Daejan	1278		3.4	14.8
32½	12½	Dares Estates	13½			
55½	39	Debenham Tewsn	52½		3.6	18.9
165½	136	Delancey	164		3.1	23.5
432½	307	Derwent Hldgs†	432½	+4	1.6	30.8
301	167	Development Sec	191		1.6	18.5
50	35	Dwyer	43½		3.4	11.6
189½	85	Edge Properties	109			
400	340	Estates Agency	380		5.6	23.6
156	50½	Estates Gen	55			
128½	104	Evans Of Leeds	114½	+1	3.4	17.8
15	7	Ex-Lands Prop	11½	-½	5.4	
59	55	Fiscal Prop	59		4.6	19.3
38½	22	Five Oaks	26½		3.8	17.8
29	19	Fletcher King	25		7.2	11.2
69	52	Folkes Group†	59½		5.5	4.9
69	53	Folkes Group nv†	59		5.5	4.9
531½	453	Frogmore†	523½		6.7	19.4
50	25½	Golden Land Es	35½			
312½	228	Grainger	311	+2	2.7	21.6
199½	161	Gt Portland	190½	-1	5.9	19.8
162	133	Greycoat	155			
96½	35	Hambro Cntry	96	+2		
405½	330½	Hammerson†	379			
51	31	Hampton Trust	31	-½	3.5	
339	314	Helical Bar	336½		2.4	15.4
33½	23½	Hemingway	23½		1.9	20.3
45½	30½	High-Point	45			
158½	119	HK Land†	136½	+1½	5.0	16.6
170	148	Jermyn	149	-4½	4.1	26.2
1	0½	Kentrell	0½			
99½	85	LSH	91½			
133	112½	Lands Imp	117½		5.1	11.9
727½	599	Land Sec	725	+7½	4.6	21.4
307½	268	London Intl	306½		5.3	13.6
37	29½	Lon & Assoct	33½		2.7	16.0
6	3	Lon & Metro	3½			
100½	83	Lon Merch Sec	96		6.2	
446½	385½	MEPC	437½	-4½	5.9	32.2
9	1½	McInerney A	1½	-2½		
157	132	McKay Secs	155		4.4	20.6
75	50	Marcol	57½		3.3	16.6
33	26	Mountview Es	33		3.7	16.0
1458	975	Mountview	1450		1.4	16.0
150	115	Mucklow (A&J)†	133	-½	6.3	15.2
45	30	OEM	37½	+¼		6.0
93	62	ORB	64			
33	22	Olives Prop	32		1.7	13.2
157½	126	PSIT	152		4.9	36.1
429	308	Peel	428½		2.6	23.2
200	143	Pillar Prop	193	-2	3.0	59.9
4½	2½	Pressac Land	3			
129½	113	Quintain	124		2.5	17.2
29	22	Raglan	25½		5.3	
38½	29½	Regalian	35½		3.3	14.4
173	123	Rowlinson Secs	162½		2.0	8.4
107½	84	Rugby Estt	136	-½	5.5	13.4
65½	55	St Modwen Prp	63		3.4	10.1
63	53	Saville Gdn	54½	-½	6.9	13.5
94	57	Savills	89	+1½	3.9	13.6
90	70	Scot Mert	87		4.0	14.1
160	118	Stalesbury	160		4.1	12.9
262½	192½	Slough Estates	246½	-2½	4.4	19.5
215	200	Smart (J)	215			
120	96	Speedy Shops	108		1.8	32.8
83	53	TBI	77½		1.6	
145½	122	Tops Ests	140½		5.1	12.6
98	87	Town Centre	88½		5.1	14.5
127½	97	Trafford Park	121½		5.1	15.6
147	64	UK Land	111½		4.5	15.6
65	42	WSP Group	52½	+2	5.3	11.3
205	177	Warner	185½		8.2	18.3
213	195	Warnford	206½		4.9	15.3
86	65	Wates	87½			
35	24	Wisonay Mick	29½			13.0
79	41	Wood John D	73½	-1	4.3	12.7

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
522	258	Lloyds Chemst	511½		2.5	19.2
209½	149½	MFI	198	+1	2.8	23.4
533	416½	Marks Spencer†	484½	-2½	4.0	19.1
635	525	Menzies (John)	588	...	2.9	14.7
21½	15½	Merchant Retail	19½			
1305	615	Moss Bros	1150		2.1	23.4
603½	420	Next	568	+12	2.9	22.8
63	31½	Oliver (G)	40½	-1½		
552	400	[illegible]	545	-2½	2.8	18.2
65½	68	Partridge Fine	76		4.8	12.8
56	32	QS Hldgs	38½		5.1	
293½	191	Rosebys	280	+½	2.7	21.0
105	85½	Sears†	89	+2	5.5	72.5
34	14½	Signet Group	23½			
534	399	Smith WH	447	-½	4.4	..
1080	820	Sothebys	1070	+15	1.8	
362	274	Storehouse	274	-5½	3.3	15.6
157	90	Stylo	152		3.8	23.6
231	165½	T & S Stores†	176	-2½	5.2	11.3
410	334	Thorn	347½	+1½	4.7	18.6
187	159	Tie Rack	187	..	1.9	18.6
4	2½	Upton & South	3½	...		33.5
664	541½	Vendome	544½	-16	2.4	19.7
29½	12	WEW Group	28			
141	68	Wickes#	68	...	3.8	...
94	52	Wld of Leather	69½		3.1	
235½	198	Wyevale	235½	...	3.1	17.6

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1160			
340½	314½	AEA Tech	336½	+4	2.8	13.6
135	92	Alpha Airprt	113	+8½	5.5	14.5
38	26	Alphameric	37	+2½		
324½	215	Allen WS	323½		2.2	26.1
190	129	BNB Rest	162½	-1½	5.2	8.8
400	283	BPP†	360½		4.0	17.4
203	155	BSM	192½		4.6	12.7
2675	1015	BTG	2512½	-25	0.2	
1350	408	Berisford©	500			
189	123	Brit Data Mgt	173½		3.8	20.9
116½	80	Brooks Service†	94½	+3	4.2	15.1
498	373	Business Post	480	+12½	2.4	24.3
836	329	CMG†	821½	+16½	0.9	37.0
274½	111½	CRT Grp†	273½	+½	1.9	34.8
958½	187	Card Gp	650		0.6	5.0
432½	285	Capita Group	431	+4½	1.3	35.7
10½	5½	Chemex	8	+¼	3.1	10.4
386	311½	Chubb Sec	311½	-5½	3.4	15.4
195½	92	Corp Services	170	+½	3.3	20.7
59½	45	Coutts Constg	55		2.9	17.7
256½	73	DCS Grp†	230½	-9½	0.8	29.1
276½	202½	Davis Service	246½	-3½	4.9	13.3
625	367	Delphi	625	+5	0.9	21.8
170	98	Dudley Jenkins	163½		2.7	22.4
82	38	EW Fact†	60	-½	3.4	9.2
116	61½	El Data Prc	70½		3.8	10.2
464	245	FI Group	453	+11½	1.1	39.5
522½	362	Hays†	521	+1	1.9	23.4
288	210	Hogg Robinsn	265		4.1	13.1
542	360	JBA Hldgs†	467½	-2½	1.1	28.0
311	256	Johnson Clean	275		5.1	11.5
149	103	Kalamazoo	117½	-3	4.4	13.0
500	351	Kewill Sys	466½	-5	2.1	13.8
347	57	LIMS©	71½			
41	13	Laser-Scan	25			
139	90	Leigh	124½		3.9	
832½	452	Logica†	832½	+20	1.2	31.1
88	68	Lyon Hldgs	82½	-2½	2.4	17.5
92	36½	MDIS	38		3.9	
587	246	MMT Comp	532½		2.1	
101	65	MR Group†	84½		5.3	15.6
520	388	Macro 4	497½		6.1	13.2
2718½	1740½	Manpower	1746½	-8½	0.5	
90	77½	Mentmore Abbey	84½	-½		68.0
1340	553	Micro Focus	870	-15		
192	141	Microgen	148½		6.4	10.1
955	570	Misys	946½	-1	1.4	21.5
192½	124	MITE Gp	175		1.0	27.8
41	32	Novo Group	37½		4.7	9.8
49½	39½	Orbis	41	-½	2.8	15.9
173	127	P & P	144	+2½	2.8	12.9
429½	168	Page (Michael)	421½	-2	1.7	17.3
362½	173	Parity	356½	-2	0.8	29.1
433	280	Pegasus	380	-5	1.9	26.2
140	79	Pennat#	125		2.0	..
169	106½	Photo-Met	121½	..	5.1	13.9
42	21½	Proudfoot	22		11.4	5.4
272	175	RCO	225		8.9	12.5
148	105	RPS Group	133½		3.5	12.9
84	47	Radius	62½	-½	2.9	13.0
314	173	Real Time	183		3.4	8.8
116	84½	Rebuts	86	+½	2.2	
158	105	Reed Executive	139½		2.1	10.1
245	115	Reliance Sec	130	+3½	6.5	11.0
447	325	Rentokil Inf	401	-½	1.4	27.6
156	103	Ricardo Group†	113½		6.9	14.6
148	105½	Robert Walters	136½		1.8	17.4
400	268	Rolfe & Nolan	342½		1.8	27.8
515	325	Sage Gp	474	-1	0.7	29.8
366	242	Salvesen (C)	324½		3.3	17.5
179½	128	Sanderson Elec	169½	-½	2.9	19.2
410	160	Select App†	384	-4½	1.1	35.0
930	519½	Sema Gp	927½	+4	0.7	36.4
647½	367	Serco Gp	646½	+1½	1.0	38.8
124	89	Shanks & McEwan	115	+3	3.9	18.0
297	165	Shared Intl	193		2.6	11.6
134½	90½	Sketchley	101½	-½	4.4	
248	198	Stal-Plus	207½		6.5	16.1
785	380	Superscape VR	447½	+15		
53½	30	Tower Group†	49½		3.5	16.9
285	205	Warner Howard	271		4.4	12.5
385	267	Waste Mgt Intl	270	-1		
234½	127	Waste Recyg	203½		1.3	27.8

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
385	326½	BT	363½	+1½	6.5	11.5
554	397	Cable Wireless	473½	-3½	2.6	18.0
158	132	Euro Telecom	150½			
214½	155	General Cable	209	-2		
127	95½	NYNEX Cable	116½	-½		
254	163½	Orange	170½	-3		
328	243	Securicor	278		0.2	
190	118	TeleWest	126	-½		
266½	208½	Vodafone	238½	-1	2.1	23.9

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

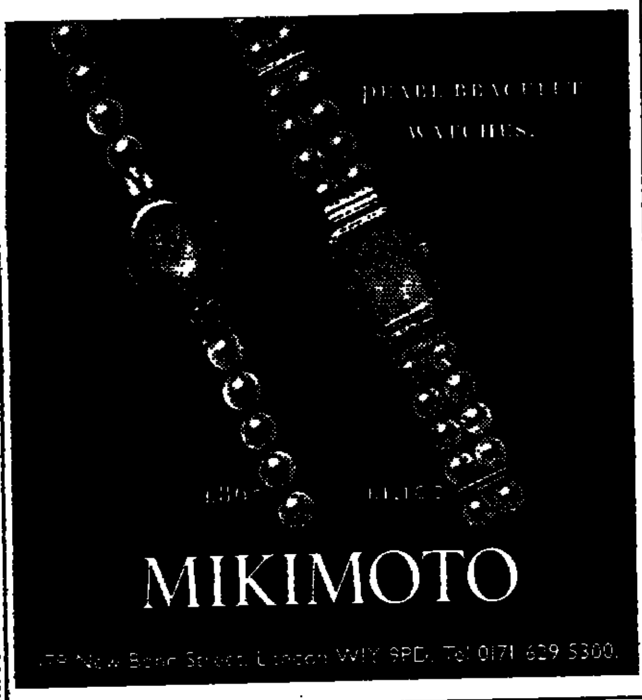
WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Source: FT Information

BRITISH FUNDS

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.97	6.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.09	6.18
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.39	6.21
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.60	6.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.93	6.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.43	6.70
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.21	6.80
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.71	6.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.50	6.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.39	7.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.07	7.09
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.03	7.01
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.75	7.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.15	7.01
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.48	7.19
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.55	7.16
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.80	7.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.01	7.26
114	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.12	7.32
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.10	7.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.82	7.48
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.80	7.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.86	7.54
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115	[illegible]	10.00	7.40
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.22	6.21
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.55	7.62
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.10	7.59
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.06	7.66
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.54	7.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.58	7.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.59	7.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	7.71
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.90	7.63
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.75	7.53
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.05	7.74
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.22	7.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.89	7.82
LONGS (over 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.25	7.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.21	7.88
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.19	7.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.62	7.65
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.94	7.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.87	7.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.53	7.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.10	7.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.71	7.99
[illegible]	[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.92	7.90
UNDATED						
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.97	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]		8.07	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.10	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.70	2.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.73	3.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.60	3.48
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.05	3.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.23	3.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.32	3.55
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.38	3.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.44	3.62
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.45	3.66
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.54	3.69
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.55	3.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.56	3.68



Tony Dawe reports on the growing success of the consultancy industry, which in the past year has earned record fees overseas

British experts bring home the billions

British consultants could feel pleased with themselves when they sat down to their yearly awards lunch yesterday after the annual meeting of the British Consultants' Bureau, which promotes their work abroad. As the Duke of Gloucester, himself an architect specialising in consultancy, handed out the prizes, the members of the bureau could reflect on some stunning statistics.

The Duke of Gloucester during his mission to Hanoi

In the past year they have earned a record £2 billion in overseas fees, equal, for example, to one fifth of the earnings of the British defence industry. Last month alone, 82 overseas projects and assignments were won by BCB members. Engineering continues to provide the backbone of British expertise abroad but there has also been significant growth in "niche disciplines" such as healthcare, higher education and tourism.

"British consultancy is one of the areas of invisible earnings which has been a success story for the past century: where we have always managed to keep ourselves in the highest echelon," says Colin Adams, director of the bureau. "People abroad find it easy to get on with British consultants and admire their integrity and total independence.

"Sometimes ministers and civil servants suggest that we are not promoting British products sufficiently, but one of the reasons that agencies abroad will choose a British consultant is because they know he or she will give not just the best but also the most independent advice."

He identified a trend among consultants to move away from advising on infrastructure projects to strengthening institutions abroad, and encouraging local agencies and companies to help themselves.

While leading firms continue to advise on airport, bridge and tunnel projects, Mr Adams cited consultancies which offer less visible support. London Economics has won contracts to advise European companies on how to comply with EC regulations, Gimlet is advising the Commission on how to apply its own rules and KBC is providing software for modernising oil refineries to several companies abroad.

"The question now is how do we defend our position," says Mr Adams. "The answer is to become more specialised and for firms to keep at the leading edge of consultancy. We at the bureau can train people how to prepare a good proposal, but it is the firms themselves which have to realise they must keep their research up to date and employ the highest quality people."

The bureau has appointed Gill Monaghan as its first chairwoman. She heads Unecia, the Universities of England Consultancy for International Activities, which was formed to provide quality assistance and research for development aid projects.

Ms Monaghan will chair an organisation which is being streamlined to meet the demands of the 21st century. Created 30 years ago by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Association of Consulting Engineers to promote the work of British consultants abroad, it is now welcoming multinational consultancies, which will bring revenue into Britain.

Market research shows members would like to see the bureau concentrate on South-East and East Asia. Last year British companies earned an estimated £917 million worth of consultancy fees in the region.

Among new projects designed to tap this market is Action Japan, set up by the Trade Department to improve business between the two countries. Nick Khosla, an export promoter seconded to the project from Ove Arup, says that Japan's overseas development aid is the world's largest at £7 billion a year, and provides opportunities for British consultants, contractors and suppliers.

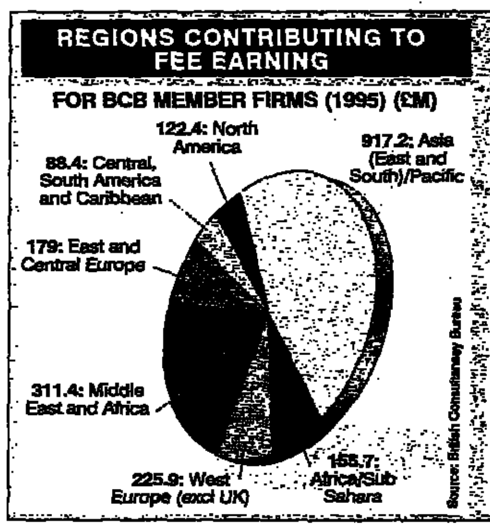
"Japan's aid programme was tied to running contracts for Japanese companies a decade ago, but now its economy is much stronger the Government is under pressure to reduce its trade surplus and is expanding overseas development aid," he says.

"Part of that aid is a technical co-operation programme supporting development studies. Japanese consultants must be in the majority, but up to 50 per cent of the work can be undertaken by foreign consultants."

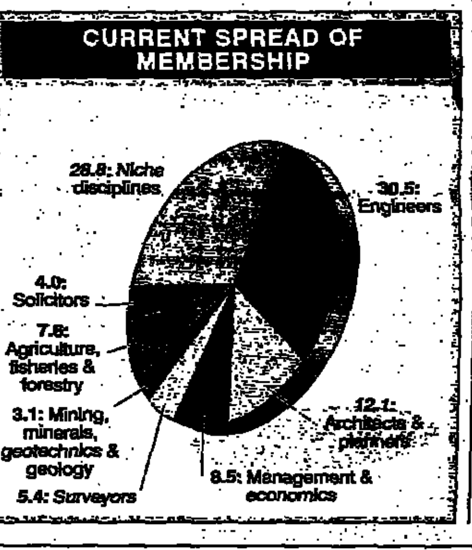
In the basket: research shows that South-East and East Asia are growing areas for marketing British expertise

REGIONS CONTRIBUTING TO FEE EARNING

FOR BCB MEMBER FIRMS (1995) (£M)



CURRENT SPREAD OF MEMBERSHIP



Source: British Consultancy Bureau

Mission flies a winning flag

Consulting firms which took part in last month's British Consultants' Bureau mission to Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia — led by the Duke of Gloucester — returned highly optimistic at the prospect of winning substantial new business, *Colin Adams writes.*

Consultancy is an unsung area of invisible earnings, in which British companies traditionally excel worldwide. The Asia Pacific region continues to be the most successful market for all sectors. Latest figures for the awarding of consultancy contracts by the Asian Development Bank put UK firms in a commanding position. So why bother with missions?

The competition today to win projects is becoming fiercer. The key elements to winning work are state-of-the-art expertise, international experience, local associates, decision-makers well disposed to the UK, early identification of projects, funding and patience. Many of these require a presence on the ground.

Vietnam is a market with enormous potential. Within the next five years it is expected to receive substantial investment. Although many BCB-member firms are already working in Vietnam, their objective in taking part in a mission was to consolidate good relations and contacts. Britain is currently highly regarded by the Vietnamese as one of their principal supporters in Europe.

The Duke of Gloucester, a veteran of some 20 years of BCB missions, provides the key for access to the most senior levels of government. He has also been the catalyst for many BCB members to win projects.

In Hanoi, the mission was warmly received and seminars were attended by more than 200 people, many concerned with transport, ports, power and water.

Saigon proved equally fruitful. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with their newly-formed "Vietnamese Consultancy Association", which has been modelled on BCB, the object being to provide assistance and develop collaboration in Vietnam itself, and for work together in neighbouring countries.

It was possible for consultants to visit Hue and Da Nang in the middle of the country. This region is planning major port, tunnel and highway construction.

The Philippines is another exciting market. The country is now in a period of expansion which, with careful management, should experience growth comparable to that of Malaysia and Indonesia. President Ramos briefed the mission on his plans for the future. He was enthusiastic about the British consultants and the part they could play.

Many consultants developed partnerships for projects during the mission. The final leg of the mission in Indonesia was equally successful.

- *The author is diretor of the British Consultants' Bureau.*

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- The Bureau's directors and staff helped member firms obtain substantive, high level contacts in the course of several BCB international missions and during the visits of VIPs to BCB.
- Regular meetings took place with UK and overseas ministers and ambassadors, with the World Bank, ADB, representatives from the EU, the EBRD, the FCO, DTI and ODA.
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Colin Adams CBE, Director, British Consultants Bureau,
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Rodney Hobson salutes award-winners and top teams

[redacted]

THE SWITCH of former Soviet Union countries to a market economy has brought opportunities for British consultants to push the process along.

The three nominations in the category for less visible projects involved education in Kazakhstan, electricity in Ukraine and energy in the St Petersburg region of Russia.

The creation of a more attractive energy sector for international investors and finance institutions has been created in the St Petersburg region by Environmental Resources Management (ERM), a London consultancy that has won the Queen's Award for Export three times and now the consultancy of the year for invisible projects.

In Ukraine, a World Bank study recommended an energy pool system similar to that in the UK with one company operating and maintaining the grid while distribution was controlled by local electricity companies. Mott Ewbank Preece, working with the main consultant, Coopers & Lybrand, was awarded the contract.

A highly developed system of higher education in Kazakhstan was going through a cash crisis. UNECIA of Sheffield and its German partners Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst helped it to adapt to operate efficiently and effectively in a market economy.

[redacted]

RUSSIA'S largest *single* export earner is being upgraded, thanks to help from Hardcastle & Company. The London firm was among 12 Western and two *Russian consultancies* working on an independent appraisal of the main Russian gas pipeline.

Gazprom, the Russian national gas company, earns more *than £10 billion* in much needed hard currency for Russia. It is also an important source of energy for Western Europe.

Clive Hardcastle, managing director of Hardcastle, says: "Unless people in the UK are close to Gazprom's management and understand the Russian industry, we as a country will lose out to our competitors."

That perseverence won for Hardcastle the title small consultancy of the year for invisible projects.

- A crucial stage in the transition of South Africa was the holding of local government elections following national elections. Vital help was provided by a technical resource group from 13 Commonwealth nations.

Solace International, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, provided administrative support for the team, recruited 20 individuals from the UK and deployed the project management expertise.

A busy Shanghai: traffic in China, Vietnam, Malaysia and India is projected to double in five years

IN THE Asia-Pacific region road accidents result in more than 235,000 deaths a year and the figure will, it is estimated, rise to 450,000 within ten years unless urgent action is taken. Accidents in the region cost £15 billion a year.

Vehicles will double in five years in countries such as India, China, Vietnam and Malaysia where the annual growth in traffic is more than 15 per cent.

For the past two years Ross Silcock, a small consultancy in Newcastle upon Tyne, has been working with the Asian Development Bank to review road safety in 34 countries and develop strategies for improving it.

[redacted]

- In Peru, under a World Bank programme, a five-year road safety scheme was implemented, including road engineering, traffic policing, testing and training drivers.
- In Fiji, where roads have been improved to cope with extra traffic, issues tackled under an action plan included collecting accident data and traffic law enforcement. Children now receive road safety education, drivers are tested more stringently and vehicles are examined for roadworthiness.
- In Africa, the Ghanaian Government invited Ross Silcock back to advise on a second road safety plan after the success of the first plan in 1991.

SHANGHAI BEATING POLLUTION

A £300 million project is under way *in Shanghai to improve* water supplies and control pollution. It is one of the largest schemes of its kind in the world and it has won for Michael Burley, a Mott MacDonald director, the title of consultant of the year for *visible projects.*

Mr Burley has led the company's extensive work in Shanghai and was awarded the Baiyulan Prize by the Shanghai Municipal Government, its highest honour for foreign friends.

- *Jamaica's Ministry of Health* is in the middle of an ambitious hospital rationalisation and David Carter is Mott MacDonald's project leader. The first phase focuses on constructing one new hospital and substan*tially renovating five existing* ones around the island.

Mott MacDonald was appointed in a joint venture with Llewelyn-Davies to provide technical assistance and project management support.

- *The opening of the second* Severn crossing to traffic in June marked the culmination of a four-year construction programme for the £330 million privately-financed project.

Renowned for its strong winds *and unpredictable currents,* the Severn estuary presented an enormous challenge to the design team and contractor, led by David Mizon, Halcrow's project manager.

BELARUS: RADIOACTIVITY CHECKUP

THE effects of the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster are still being felt ten years later. The economies of Belarus and Ukraine have seen large areas of land *subjected* to *severe* constraints on their use for agriculture, forestry and recreation.

Peter Coughtrey of LG Mouchell & Partners, based at *West Byfleet, Surrey, was* responsible for a project to improve the monitoring and controlling of radioactive contamination of food in areas of Belarus affected by the *disaster.*

Dr Coughtrey's work, which won him the individual award for less visible projects, also *included helping the Ukrainian* authorities to develop strategies for reducing radioactive contamination of milk in the area and monitoring exports of food *to the European Union.*

- Dr Michael Burstall of Remit Consultants was project manager for a study on improving access to European markets for *13 American pharmaceutical* companies. One by-product was to make the Americans aware of the attractiveness of the UK as a location for investment.

The study focused on the benefits and importance to the UK economy of the research-based pharmaceutical sector.

[redacted]

A COMBINED power and desalination *plant* at Dubai, built to meet the rising demand for power and water in the Middle East state, has won the award for visible projects.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority approached Ewbank Preece, now Mott Ewbank Preece, to review forecasts of demand. The consultancy suggested a power and water plant on the coast about 18 miles from Dubai City and close to the port of Jebel Ali, where the authority had a similar plant.

The new station can generate 456 megawatts using natural gas and can produce 272,800 cubic metres of water a day.

- The German A4 autobahn can now carry twice as many vehicles across the Rhine thanks to a unique widening scheme on the Rodenkirchen bridge three miles south of *Cologne. For the first time,* a suspension bridge has been widened by adding a third cable. The project had to be carried out without the bridge being closed.

Rendel Palmer & Tritton, part of the High-Point Rendel group, took up the challenge *as consulting engineers. To* keep traffic moving, the new bridge was constructed, connected to the existing construction, then the old bridge was *closed while the old road deck* was replaced. The widened bridge can now carry six lanes of traffic.

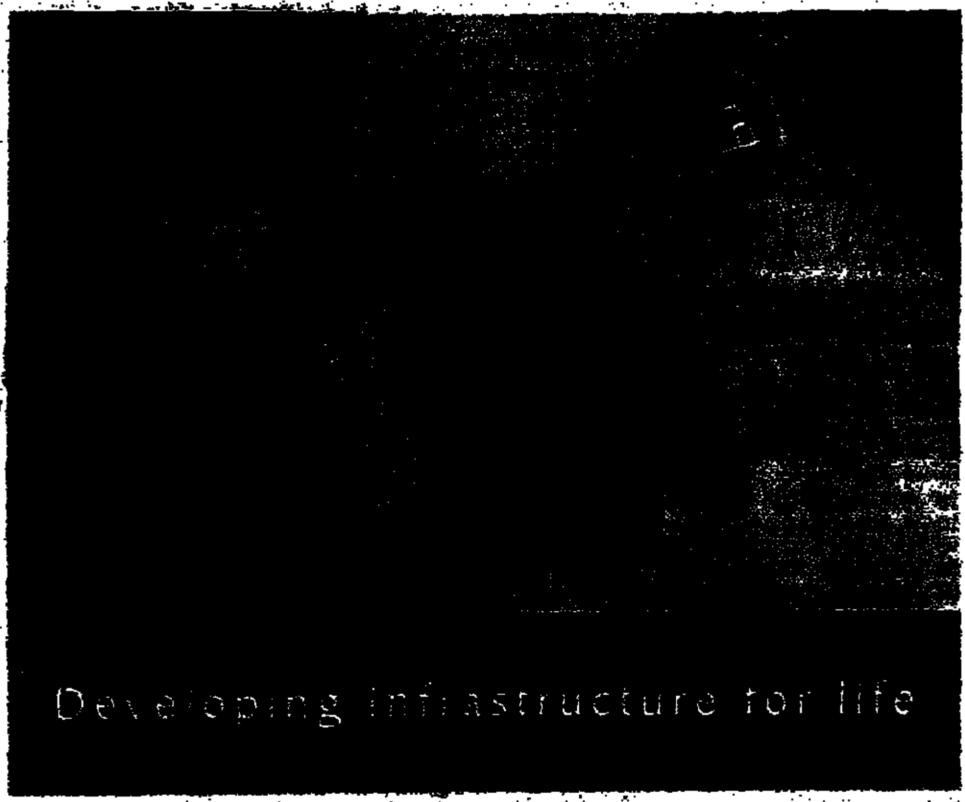
- Safety from the storms and tidal *surges* that batter the coastline of Bangladesh has been provided for 250,000 people in 207 of the worst-affected locations, thanks to a project involving O'Sullivan & Graham. An extra benefit has *been* that the *shelters* were designed to double up as schools. The project was the outcome of one of the worst storms this century, when 140,000 lives were lost in 1991.

O'Sullivan & Graham, based at Shinfield, Berkshire, and Iberinsa of Spain, were appointed by the Commission *of European Communities to* help with an £18 million project to built 200 shelters-cum-primary schools in the most vulnerable areas.

Within four months, 15 shelters were under construction. Rooms at first-floor level were placed 15 feet above the ground while an additional *refuge was added at roof level.* An elevated plinth at ground level can save cattle in times of more moderate tidal surges.

- One of the largest combined-cycle power stations in the world has been built at Black Point on the western edge of the New Territories, Hong Kong. Using gas piped from the Yacheng field in the South China sea off Hainan island, it feeds the electricity transmission system in Hong Kong and, after upgrading, will also serve Guangdong province in China.

LG Mouchell and Partners have been involved since 1989, carrying out studies on possible sites before providing civil, structural, architectural and building services for the first phase of the development. The first power was generated earlier this year.



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[redacted]

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Our success as one of Britain's top exporters of engineering consultancy owes much to the dedication and skills of our staff world-wide. So we are delighted that Michael Burley's contribution to Shanghai's environmental programme has been recognised by an award for British Individual Consultant of the Year — the fourth time in five years that a Mott MacDonald engineer has won this accolade.

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We also take pride in developing project solutions carefully tailored to meet the needs of the communities and countries they serve — typified by Dubai's Jebel Ali G power and desalination station which has earned our power specialist, Mott Ewbank Preece, an award for British Consultancy Firm of the Year.

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Bargains of the week — from a fortnight in the Algarve to a nine-day tour of Morocco over Christmas

HOLIDAYS

EXPLORING Florida by car for a week, then cruising the Caribbean for the next seven days for £699 a person is the latest package on offer from The Cruise Line with flights from Gatwick on the next three Mondays. Details: 01273 835252.

■ CYPRUS for a week for £219 on a Thomson holiday with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday and bed and breakfast accommodation is among late offers from Lunn Poly. Details from the company's 800 Holiday Shops.

■ A GREEK evening, walking tour of Oxford and wine-tasting are included in a gourmet weekend for singles over 30 based at the Bear Hotel, Hungerford, Wiltshire, from November 22 to 24. The price from Lasting Impression Holidays is £159 a person. Details: 0161-436 6513.

■ THE ALGARVE for £149 for a fortnight in self-catering accommodation with a flight from Gatwick on November 23 is included in late offers from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

■ SKIING in Turkey is one of the new breaks offered by Dolunay Holidays. Prices start from £589 a person for a week's full-board accommodation and ski pass at the Uludag resort, plus return flights. Details: 01452 501978.

■ DUBAI Christmas shopping trips are on offer from Amathus Holidays for £395 for two nights with a flight from Gatwick on Saturdays or £439 for three nights and a flight on Fridays. Details: 0171-636 9873.

■ EILAT at cut prices next month is on offer from Peltours. A week's bed and breakfast and return flights cost from £299 a person. Departures from Heathrow, Manchester and Luton on several dates between December 1 and 16. Details: 0181-343 0590.

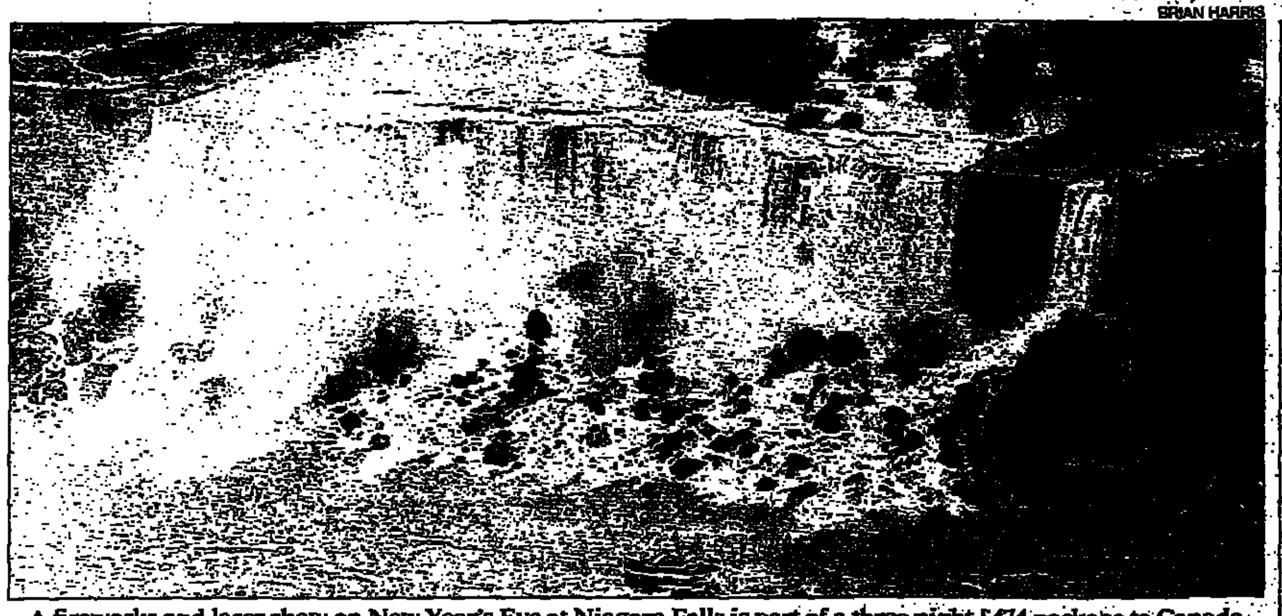
■ KENYA for a fortnight over Christmas is available for £749 a person with Holiday Place, with a flight from Gatwick on December 15 and half-board accommodation at the four-star Traveller's Beach Hotel. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ ESCAPE Christmas in Britain on a nine-day Travelbag Adventures tour of Morocco, with a flight from Heathrow on December 21. The price for the tour, which includes mountains, the coast and Marrakesh and bed-and-breakfast hotel accommodation, is from £565 a person. Details: 01420 541007.

■ NEW YEAR'S Eve overlooking the Niagara Falls with a fireworks and laser show forms part of a three-night package from Travelplanners, which also includes two nights in Toronto and sightseeing trips. The price, if booked before November 30, is £474 a person. Details: 0181-559 7760.

■ BUDAPEST in a spa hotel over new year is on offer from Thermalia Travel for £399 a person, with a flight from Heathrow on December 30 and three nights' accommodation and evening meals. Details: 0171-483 1898.

BRIAN HARRIS



A fireworks and laser show on New Year's Eve at Niagara Falls is part of a three-night £474 package to Canada

FLIGHTS

CUT-PRICE fares to Brussels and beyond are being offered by Virgin Express. The no-frills airline charges £32 one-way between Heathrow and Brussels. Connecting flights between London and Madrid, Rome, Milan, Vienna, Nice, Copenhagen or Barcelona cost a flat £75. Details: 0800 891199.

■ FARES have tumbled between London and Inverness. Air UK (0345 666777) which flies out of Stansted in Essex has return fares of £59 for midweek and £69 for weekend flights. Easyjet (0990 292929), flying from Luton, costs £29 one way and £58 return for its service, which begins on November 22.

■ THE Flemish airline VLM operates five flights a day between London City and Rotterdam and charges £85 for a return excursion free of Saturday-night-stay restrictions. Details: 0171-476 6677.

■ AIR Namibia has a special £199 one-way fare between Heathrow and Windhoek, Cape Town or Johannesburg on selected dates during November and December. Details: 0181-944 6181.

■ BRITISH Airways has lowered its US Excursion fares. Book by today and depart before December 12 and BA will charge £205 to selected East Coast and £269 to selected West Coast destinations. Details: 0345 222111.

■ DENMARK'S Maersk Air has a £120 supersaver excursion between Gatwick and Copenhagen with flights to Billund priced at £140. Details: 0171-333 0066.

FERRIES

P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has packages to Disneyland Paris from £67 a person until December 17. The price is based on two adults and two children travelling in one car and staying three nights (Sunday to Tuesday) at the Davy Crockett ranch. A one-day park pass is included. Details: 01992-456045.

■ CHEAP but restricted day trips are available with Le Shuttle from £29, Monday to Thursday (£39 weekends). The same prices apply to an overnight ticket (travel out after midday, return before 4pm next day). Details from Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

■ RED Funnel has introduced a pre-Christmas five-day ticket valid until December 15 on its Southampton-Cowes route for £32, including a car and up to four passengers. Details: 01703-334010.

■ THE CLUB Hotelier Calais group is offering dinner, bed and breakfast and a ferry crossing with car from £39. Details: 01892-519258.

■ STENA Line has a £49 return fare including ferry crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland and onwards by rail to Amsterdam. Children travelling with an adult go for £5. Details: 0990-455455.

■ IRISH Ferries has motoring breaks to Ireland from £63 a person to include two nights B&B staying in Irish homes or three-star hotels. The price is based on a car and four adults, valid until December 31. Details: 0990-143441.

HOTELS

A COMPLIMENTARY copy of the 200-page Leading Hotels of the World directory for 1997 is available. Lots of details, plus colour photographs of 308 luxury hotels in 66 countries. Details: 0800 181 123.

■ HOSPITALITY Hotels of Cornwall, a collection of independently run hotels, is offering five free vouchers for entry to any of Cornwall's top 12 gardens, as well as a £10 plant voucher, for guests staying on its five-night Glorious Gardens package. Prices start at £235 a person for five nights, including dinner and breakfast. Details: 01872 553655.

■ SIPPING sherry with the Lord Mayor of Durham is one of the attractions offered by the Royal County Hotel in Durham over Christmas. A four-night break, with extras such as a private guided tour of Durham Castle, includes lunch and dinner and costs from £345 a person. Details: 0191-386 6821.

■ A SAVING of almost 50 per cent is the introductory rate at the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Bali. Rates start as $125 (about £83) a night for an ocean view room until March 31 next year, after which the rate is £146. Details: 0800 234 0000.

■ THE Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel near Coventry in Warwickshire, has a three-night Christmas break from £299 a person, including Christmas lunch and a Swinging Sixties gala dinner dance. A one-night New Year's Eve break costs from £149 a person. Details: 01676 522335.

■ THE Landmark Trust has adopted a more flexible approach to off-season breaks in its 163 interesting historic buildings which are available on a self-catering basis. The average price for a weekend break for a property sleeping four to six people is just under £300. Details: 01628 825925.

■ STAY in the White House, an eight-room 250-year-old plantation house on the Caribbean island of St Kitts, for £75 a person a night, including breakfast. A fortnightly direct service has just been introduced by Caledonian Airways from £288 return. Details: 0800 31 71 85.

■ THE Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge has a special room rate, also offering VIP access to stores such as Harrods and Harvey Nichols. Rates, from December 15 until January 13, start at £150 a night for single occupancy (including VAT, service and breakfast) and £220 for double. Details: 0171-235 6000.

■ A STEAM railway trip is included in the Christmas break on offer from Goldenrail at the three-star Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury. Price for three nights based on two sharing is £255 a person, full board. Details: 0161-238 5206.

■ A NEW Year break at the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews, costs £99.50 a person a night, based on double occupancy, and includes a half-hour treatment in the hotel's health spa. Guests are guaranteed tee-times on the hotel's championship course. Details: 01334 474371.

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Struggling hideaways in the sun are investing manpower and money to attract big-spending travellers

Britain's holiday 'trade gap' narrows

By Harvey Elliott

BRITAIN's tourism "trade gap" with the rest of the world is narrowing fast as high-spending Americans and Japanese set cash tills ringing in historic cities and attractions throughout the country.

The opening of the Channel Tunnel has also boosted the number of European visitors who last year spent £500 million on accommodation and shopping while they were in Britain, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Travel Trends, Whitehall's annual "snap-shot" of Britain's tourism industry, reveals that the record £4.6 billion tourism deficit of 1994 narrowed by £1 billion in 1995, falling for only the second time this decade. Early indications are that it is narrowing still further with a 12 per cent increase in visitor numbers and a 14 per cent rise in spending in the first eight months of 1996.

According to the report's editor, Guy Goodwin: "The figures very much suggest that 1995 was a turning year for tourism in this country."

The 14 per cent increase in visitors was the highest for 25 years and continued a trend that began after the Gulf War.

"What also stands out is the large number of American tourists coming to the country," says Mr Goodwin. Nearly four million crossed the Atlantic on holiday last year and spent a record £2 billion — more than a sixth of the total earnings from foreign tourists. "The importance of the Americans to our tourism industry is not really in doubt," he says. "They come here in large numbers, they stay longer than average and they spend more than most."

The tunnel attracts 9 per cent of all Europeans who come to Britain on holiday and 6 per cent of the business market. Last year 4 per cent of British holidaymakers and 7 per cent of business travellers used the tunnel. The tunnel accounts for 7 per cent of all overseas residents and 5 per cent of UK residents going to and from this country.

Americans spent more in Britain than any other nation, but the Icelanders were the biggest spenders individually, lashing out an average of £92 a day compared with only £27 a day spent by each Eastern European.

Foreign visitors were spread throughout the country with all but Wiltshire and Cumbria recording increases last year. Foreign holidaymakers were not impressed with the Isle of Man or Cleveland, however. And although Dorset is a favourite attraction for British holidaymakers, it was visited by only 6,000 foreign businessmen last year, while 48,000 went to Devon.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

John Carter on the Comores islands

America: Chicago and Boston

Budget skiing

Cross-channel shopping

Germany: Lake Constance

Tourism in Poland

Newcomers are keen to grab a slice of tourism

By Harvey Elliott and Tony Dawe

FROM China to Curaçao, from troubled nations like Haiti and Hungary, tourism is becoming such a vital source of income that governments are throwing tremendous resources at luring visitors away from more familiar destinations.

Representatives from "undiscovered" countries have been among the thousands of exhibitors promoting their wares at the World Travel Market which continues at Earls Court, London, today.

Long-standing rivalries have been put aside as, for example, the Caribbean islands realise that co-operation is essential if they are to attract tourists from Europe and America.

The big and succesful islands of Barbados, Jamaica and Antigua are helping to build the tourism potential of tiny and undeveloped islands such as Haiti, St Eustatius and Bonaire in the hope that the entire region will benefit.

With the support of organisations such as the World Bank and the United Nations, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, CTO is setting up language-training schemes and a model for attracting "eco-tourists" to the islands.

As in many parts of the world, tourism is expected this year to generate more than 25 per cent of the total gross domestic product of the Caribbean and provide one in every four jobs. Worldwide, tourism is likely to generate more than 100 million new jobs in the next ten years. Even Haiti, so long ravaged by violence and corruption, is launching a campaign to overcome its bad image and become a potentially outstanding destination for holidaymakers.

Maryse Penette, Haiti's Secretary of State for Tourism, outlined the island's "master plan" at Earls Court this week. "In about two and a half years time we will have completed our infrastructure development and be ready to receive tourists from Britain in style," she said.

The programme is based chiefly on training locals in hotel management, catering and languages and the launch of a scheme to develop small properties for independent travellers throughout the Haitian countryside.

The country's two airports are being improved and extended in a 21-month long project and plans are being drawn up to develop ports for cruise ships.

Ministers and tourist officials in Trinidad and Tobago are also hoping to develop their country as a base for cruise ships.

Brian Kuei Tung, Minister of Finance and Tourism, says: "We are hoping that tourism, which currently contributes five per cent to GDP, will grow to 25 per cent within the next five years. We have had a lot of success attracting the oil and energy sector and now we shall do the same with tourism.

"The infrastructure has been established with a new airport and deep-water harbour in Tobago and new hotels. We are poised for take-off and are targeting several markets, including South America and the United States as well as Europe."

All 34 members of the CTO are, meanwhile, publishing a 16-page guide explaining what is on offer from the traditional favourites to the struggling newcomers.

In Indonesia the same positive approach to tourism is being adopted. "Ten years ago the tourism industry was number eight in the list of foreign currency earners," says Andi Mappi Sammeng, Director General of Tourism. "Last year it sky-rocketed to number three behind the petroleum and textile industries and by 2003 it will be the number one earner."

The country is encouraging developments across as many islands as possible, opening up new airports and routes. "Tourism is vital because it stimulates other sectors," Mr Sammeng says. "Farmers, fruit growers and fishermen all benefit when a new hotel opens because it will need eggs, flour, fruit and fish."

Hotel groups, which were strongly represented at the exhibition, are playing their part in stimulating tourism. For example, the Shangri-La chain is developing new properties in China and Burma, and Serena Hotels, backed by the Aga Khan, are opening new lodges in Tanzania.

ANTONIO MARCELLI/REUTER

Haiti: the Government is planning to develop ports to attract passing cruise ships

Labour spins a tantalising web

THE NUMBER of senior figures from the travel industry who lent their names in support of Labour's "strategy for tourism and hospitality" suggests that the document really has, as its title suggests, "broken new ground".

Twenty top people, ranging from David Quarmby, the chairman of both the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board, to Geoffrey Lipman, the World Travel and Tourism Council President, were wheeled out at this week's World Travel Market to "welcome" the policy document.

But even as Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, was outlining Labour's plans for using the industry to "provide major economic, social and employment opportunities for Britain", there was a feeling that little of substance existed behind the polished rhetoric.

Labour maintains that "appropriate government support in marketing and support services is needed". But that, you can be sure, will not mean more money.

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The Labour politicians say they want to "encourage partnerships between local authorities, tourist boards and the private sector", apparently by using travel agents to sell British as well as foreign holidays. But will this happen while the agents get a big commission from tour operators and almost nothing from domestic tourism?

Tantalisingly, Labour insists that outbound tourism "encourages inbound tourism, with every British traveller overseas effectively acting as an ambassador for their country". Naturally, this does not include soccer hooligans or lager louts, who, it says, will be turned from their anti-social behaviour by stiffer fines.

Easily the best idea is the introduction of a statutory national accommodation-grading scheme. This would sweep away the plethora of symbols used to indicate a particular hotel's status, and replace them with one fashioned by Labour. A red rose, perhaps?

The most disturbing pledges were that Europe's 48-hour-working-week directive and the minimum wage would be introduced by a Labour government. The cost, says the industry, will destroy jobs and push up prices.

You had only to look around Earls Court this week, where more than 4,000 exhibitors from 158 countries were displaying their wares to realise that people will visit countries that offer the best value for money and have the prettiest countryside or seaside.

We have this in abundance in Britain, as I was reminded yet again last weekend when exploring the rolling hills north of Bridport, a part of Dorset that is how all England ought to look.

The irony is that if any government is successful in attracting "a greater share of tourists", the beauty spots that do remain will be swamped by a tide of coaches and cars

Cypriots 'should unite to promote historical sites'

By Tony Dawe

A CHALLENGING call for Greek and Turkish tourist officials in Cyprus to combine to promote cultural holidays on the island was made in London this week.

Kenneth Hudson, director of the European Museum of the Year Award and adviser to an EU tourism aid team, says that tourists interested in seeing Cyprus's most historic sites were being cheated because they could not visit both sections of the island.

He told a top-level gathering of Greek Cypriot diplomats and travel industry executives that they should recognise that interesting places on the island were scattered — with some of the best churches, castles and prehistoric sites in the Turkish-controlled north.

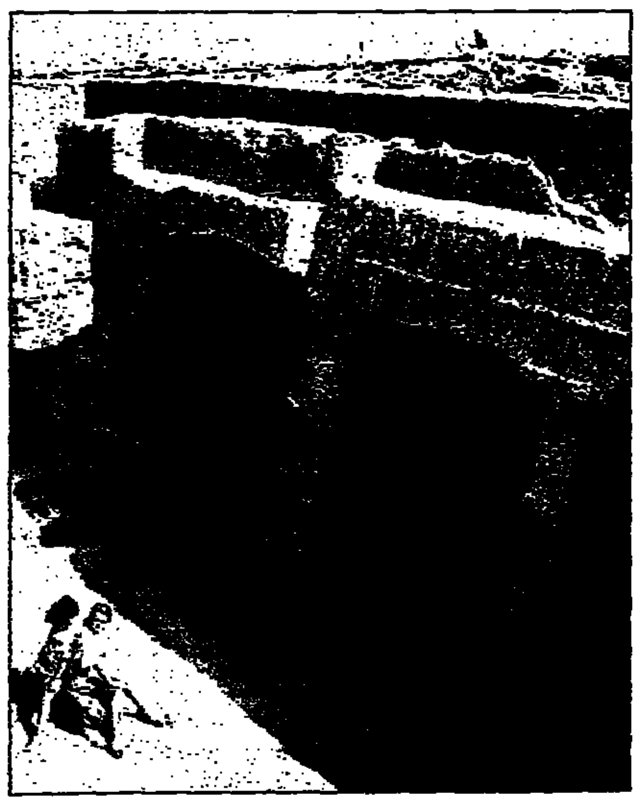
"It is time to take an enormous risk, for the cultural organisations to move ahead of their political partners by linking up," Mr Hudson says. "Quality tourism contains more money than quantity but you will get nowhere in this field without being daring."

He added that similar organisations in Ireland had taken a lead and established cross-border cultural links.

Cultural tourism has been identified as one of the main areas to be developed and promoted by the Cyprus tourism revitalisation project, funded by the EU. The project was set up earlier this year to find ways of boosting the island's ailing tourist industry. A combination of the recession in Europe, continuing differences between the two sides of the island and overdevelopment of some resorts has led to a drop in visitors and the money they bring into the country.

The EU team, in conjunction with local tourism officials, has agreed that action is needed to promote Cyprus in new markets to compensate for the decline particularly in British visitors.

"The existing sun, sand and sea product will have to be extended and new products developed to attract a wider variety of visitor," says Alistair Somerville Ford, chief executive of the Institute of Commercial Management, which is participating in the project. "Cultural tourism, special-interest tourism and agrotourism have been nominated as three areas which could be developed."



The Tombs of the Kings at Paphos are a popular spot

Eurostar launches loyalty scheme

EUROSTAR yesterday launched its own version of a frequent traveller scheme to compete with airlines. The campaign is geared at keeping the growing number of business travellers, using Eurostar to Paris and Brussels, with promises of free travel, flights and other rewards.

The rail service has been planning its response to airline schemes for over a year and has copied the carriers in having three classes of card — blue, silver and gold.

The level of card depends on freqency of travel. The higher the card, the more benefits are available, such as free travel insurance, lounge access and free car parking at Ashford for gold holders. Points are then earned by travelling on Eurostar, staying in one of three hotel chains, hiring a car with Avis or using a Global One international phone card.

In return, travellers can use their accumulated points either on Eurostar or with 18 partner companies. A Business First return ticket, costing £265, earns 200 points. Five hundred points can be redeemed for a standard Eurostar return.

Meanwhile, Virgin Holidays has teamed up with Eurostar to launch Virgin StarTrain, linking its holiday programmes with the the rail operator's scheduled trains. Prices start from £99 on a day trip to Lille, Brussels or Paris which include return train fare on Eurostar and lunch.

French Concorde fails Ronay test

By Robin Young

FLYING Concorde across the Atlantic can mean two very different standards of service, according to Egon Ronay, the hotel and restaurant critic.

Mr Ronay paid for two trips, one in the French Concorde from Paris to New York and the other returning by British Concorde from New York to London.

The result of the comparison, he said yesterday, was: "British Airways' Concorde service is far superior to that of Air France. The BA Concorde oozed luxury, refinement and a genuine concern for passengers' well-being. The French Concorde should droop its nose in shame."

Mr Ronay's tale of two Concordes is revealed with today's launch of Egon Ronay Alert, an Internet-based public voice of The Egon Ronay Inner Circle, a new action group he has founded for international travellers.

He said: "I am declaring war on poor services on behalf of top international travellers who pay more and, therefore, are entitled to better services. Egon Ronay Alert will reveal the good and expose the bad. There is now no hiding place for those providing sub-standard services."

In his first report on the French and British Concordes, he compares most aspects of France's Concorde services very unfavourably with those of British Airways.

Of services on the French Concorde, he asks: "Where have all the truffles, caviare, *foie gras* gone? Have the French lost all their taste for luxury, even at well over £5,000 per return flight?" He described Air France's on-board meal as "forgettable", and its Concorde lounge at Charles de Gaulle airport a "disappointing mediocrity".

He adds: "The service, which was reasonably efficient, lacked the real caring one should have felt, or sincere friendliness or natural kindliness. Even its Concorde lounge was almost tawdry. The head of cabin staff should be relegated to the ranks, and the chef relegated to the kitchen sink."

By contrast, BA's lounge at New York's Kennedy Airport was "palatial, supremely comfortable, decorated with relaxed taste," he says.

"The lounge staff could not have been bettered. The flight attendants also seemed truly pleased to see the passengers, and the amount of attention was almost embarrassing. The main course was the best I have had on an airline."

Egon Ronay Alert is on the Internet at http://www.egonronay.infocomint.com

Australian visa revolution

By Steve Keenan

BRITISH holidaymakers to Australia will be issued with electronic visas from next month in a breakthrough development which could be copied by UK immigration officials.

From December 16, eight UK travel agents and four airlines will be able to have visa applications approved within seconds instead of a paper process which can take three weeks.

Three other countries — two in the Far East and one in the Middle East — already want to copy the system for their own border controls.

And a meeting between Australian immigration officials, the system suppliers and the British Foreign Office was taking place this week to discuss progress.

The system allows agents and airlines to tap in basic passenger information such as passport number, name and birthdate and receive an authorised visa back from Australia within an average of eight seconds.

On arrival in Australia, it is estimated the process to clear immigration will take 50 seconds.

The initiative has been promoted by the Australian Government, which wants most "normal" holiday and business visas to be electronically processed within two years.

The UK is the first country in Europe to go on-line following the USA, Singapore and Japan. There were nearly 350,000 UK visitors to Australia last year.

Manchester-based Australian Consulate consul Hamish Lindsay says: "Australia has the best run immigration system in the world, with most people arriving into controlled areas. It is easy to control who arrives and this continues the process."

It is estimated the system will cover 92 per cent of visa applications. But while Virgin, Qantas, Air New Zealand and Singapore have signed up for the scheme, British Airways is lagging behind.

Now talks are going on with worldwide reservation systems to roll out the electronic facility to all travel agents. At present, only eight major agents with suitable telecommunications can take advantage of the system.

But it is expected that travel agents will drop or reduce their 'processing' fees as more companies offer the service and competition increases.

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■ VIDEOS 1

You'll believe a pig can talk: the delightful *Babe* brings Dick King-Smith's tale to animated life

■ VIDEOS 2

Anthony Hopkins directs and stars in *August*, which relocates a Chekhov play in 19th-century Wales

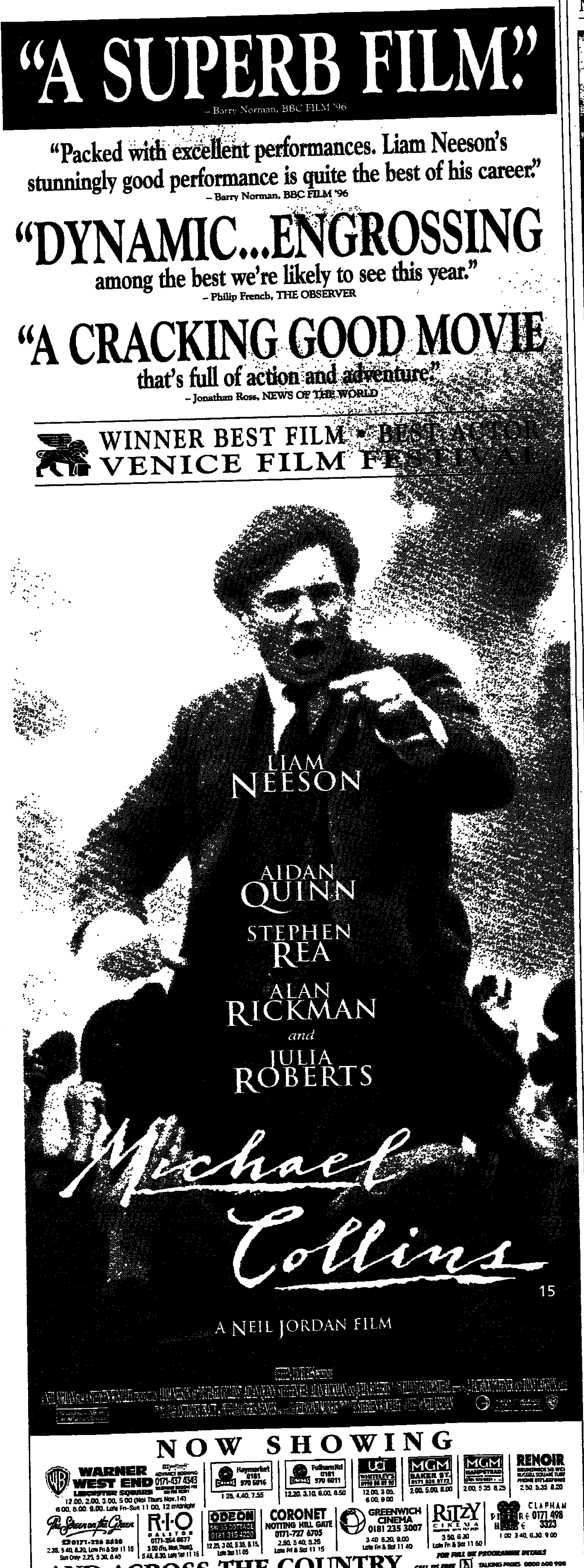
THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VIDEOS 3

Suppressed in the Sixties, the Rolling Stones' TV show, *Rock and Roll Circus*, hits the small screen

■ POP

Shawn Colvin displays ever more impressive songwriting skills in a fine London gig



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NEW ON VIDEO: A talking piglet; Ken's luvvie story; and vintage Stones

Bringing home the bacon: Chris Noonan's "fresh and intelligent" *Babe* balances sentiment with self-mockery

Christmas crackling

■ BABE
CIC, U, 1995
THE BEST family film in a long age is now for sale in good time for Christmas. Sentiment is balanced by self-mockery; the humour is fresh and intelligent: and director Chris Noonan, in an auspicious debut, serves up a wide range of visual treats as he tells Dick King-Smith's story about a lovable talking piglet who develops a knack for herding sheep. The animals are real, with a few animatronic ones mixed in; among the human actors, Magda Szubanski is very funny as the farmer's bemused wife.

■ AUGUST
Film Four, PG, 1996
THIS IS *Uncle Vanya* transported by screenwriter Julian Mitchell to a Welsh country house in the late 19th century, where Anthony Hopkins lolls on a sofa one minute and capers about making animal noises the next. Since Hopkins is also the director, nobody can issue a restraining order, but at least he allows the rest of the cast — Leslie Phillips, Kate Burton, Rhian Morgan among them — to bring out their finer points. A curate's egg; available to rent.

■ IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1995
KENNETH BRANAGH'S manic showbiz comedy (with a few pauses fot tears) charts the improbable progress of rag-tag actors rehearsing *Hamlet* in a village church at Christmas. You may laugh at the theatrical types at first; but Branagh's talent for whacking home every piece of business as though we were blind or deaf soon prompts viewer exhaustion. Cheaply shot in black-and-white; the most expensive item was undoubtedly Joan Collins, cast as a high-powered agent. Available to rent.

■ THE ROLLING STONES ROCK AND ROLL CIRCUS
PolyGram, E, 1968
PLANNED as a television special but never screened because the Stones were dissatisfied with their performance, this riotous recollection of late 1960s rock now surfaces on video. The sound is excellent, the image crisp, and the content out of this world. The circus setting recalls *Sergeant Pepper*, but the music goes its own way, and includes a fiery number from The Who, caterwauling from Yoko Ono, and a powerful six-pack from the Stones, who should not have worried. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, who was making *Let It Be* with the Beatles at the same time.

■ THINGS TO DO IN DENVER WHEN YOU'RE DEAD
Buena Vista, 18, 1995
HIP AND humane crime drama from new director Gary Fleder about a bunch of retired criminals rounded up by Andy Garcia. Artifice dominates the Colorado setting and the dialogue, but the excellent cast atone for most faults. Garcia aside, you get Christopher Walken in a wheelchair, Steve Buscemi toting a gun, Treat Williams sparring with a corpse, and Jack Warden waxing philosophical from his booth in the Thick 'n' Rich malt shop. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

Back in her own write

POP

Shawn Colvin
Hanover Grand, W1

When Shawn Colvin released *Cover Girl* in the autumn of 1994, an album of remakes seemed a surprising blip in an upward career curve. By then, this midwestern artist had established a firm footing as a songwriter in her own right with the excellent *Steady On* and *Fat City* albums.

But listening to *A Few Small Repairs*, the new set that marks Colvin's return to her own material, you realise the fresh perspective afforded by such a diversion. Not only has she found her own voice again, it is now stronger, bolder and ready to take her to a much wider audience.

Performing here with a full band that included her long-time songwriting partner John Leventhal, Colvin was also able to emphasise the depth of her catalogue by the songs she left out: even in a longish set there was no room for the stunning ballad *I Don't Know Why*, nor the first album's sublime *Shotgun Down the Avalanche*, nor indeed anything from that covers album save Tom Waits's *Ol' 55*.

The evening was shaped by new songs, led off by *Sunny Come Home*, which, like much of *A Few Small Repairs*, stays true to Covlin's folk-fuelled past while adding beefier production and a fresh pop sensibility. *Get Out Of This House* showed the same vigour, on a song that could well unlock the singles market for her. Completing an introductory trio from the new release was *You and the Mona Lisa*, as cool and slinky a modern love song as you could wish for.

Perhaps by way of reassurance, Colvin sensibly dotted her set with a few familiar numbers, such as *Diamond in the Rough* and *Round of Blues*.

During an encore that lasted almost as long as the main set, she set Leventhal the task of remembering *Tennessee*, a song he co-wrote but claimed impishly never to have played. And such is her onstage aplomb, she was able to recover from losing her way entirely during *Steady On* without lasting damage. With such memories and a new portfolio, Colvin is ready to join the mainstream.

Colvin: ready to join the mainstream

PAUL SEXTON

Transatlantic battle of the saxes

JAZZ: Fine London gigs by Bob Berg, Tim Whitehead and Tim Garland

BROOKLYN-BORN saxophonist **Bob Berg**, like fellow tenor player Michael Brecker, is frequently used by hardcore jazz fans as a perfect example of a musician whose prodigious talents have not always found their most congenial outlet. The main target of such criticism is the fusion music Berg played in the 1980s. Such music, the argument goes, crucially lacks flexibility, forcing even the greatest players to rein their imaginations in and play well within themselves.

On the evidence provided at Ronnie Scott's by Berg and his quartet — pianist Dave Kikoski, bassist Ed Howard and drummer Gary Novak — this verdict is hard to fault. From the moment they launched into Chick Corea's *Folk Song*, and Berg began bustling through the tune's changes, feeding off the extraordinary energy and eccentric vigour of Kikoski, it was clear that Berg is driven to producing his most powerful, eloquent playing by being able to bounce his improvisational ideas off an equally imaginative partner free from the restrictions imposed upon soloists by the neat, even fussy, arrangements upon which much fusion depends.

Berg's empathy with his pianist is something special: Berg's is a blustering sound and the presence of an equally fluent but well-drilled soloist such as Kikoski is clearly vital.

The quartet turned in a performance of an intensity verging on the volcanic, but which, particularly in their closer, the tricksy Kikoski original *E*, drew on the great strengths of acoustic post-bop jazz: a simultaneous suppleness and precision lacking in much fusion music.

SAXOPHONIST **Tim Whitehead** has always allowed his music to be especially open to the spirit of place. But in his current solo project, *Nine Sketches*, he has taken the process to its logical conclusion. Choosing nine locations of personal or historical significance, from Richmond Park to the Rudston Monolith north of Hull, he has recorded a spontaneous improvisation in each which, once transcribed, serves as the core for a concert performance.

Skilfully avoiding the more obvious pitfalls of such a method at the Purcell Room Whitehead managed to invest all his pieces with just enough specificity to conjure up their inspirations without stifling the improvisational spirit needed to spark an audience. Utilising a folkish, keening, anthemic sound for the spiritual meditations, a bustling, bluesy stridency for the urban scenes, and a delicate echo effect to evoke the slightly eerie reverence instilled in visitors to St Agnes's Maze, Whitehead more than justified his growing reputation as one of Britain's most thoughtful composers and improvisers.

Fellow saxophonist and composer **Tim Garland** restricted himself solely to the latter function in the concert's second half. *Songs of Love and Liberty*, setting two poems, Paul Eluard's *Liberté* and Pablo Neruda's *Tu Risa*, to music for accordion, guitar, bass, drums and four female voices: Christine Tobin, Monica Vasconcelos, Jacqui Dankworth and Norma Winstone. The resulting songs, sung in five languages, ranged from plaintive laments with understated Latin rhythms through jazzy scats to stirring anthems, but the work cohered because of Garland's success in infusing his music with the spirit of the poetry.

Much of the song cycle's power derived from the intensely personal nature of the poems, but Garland managed to universalise the emotion in his subject-matter without compromising the intimacy of the music.

CHRIS PARKER

■ FILM 1

A star vehicle in triplicate, *The First Wives Club* soon topples from feisty comedy to daft farce

■ FILM 2

Brits and Yanks squabble over who sits where in the Oxford boat, as *True Blue* slowly sinks

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Chinese peasants keep dark family secrets in the superb *Day the Sun Turned Cold*

■ FILM 4

H.G. Wells is ill-served by Marlon Brando in a risible adaptation of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** ducks as three big names run riot in *The First Wives Club*

Star vehicle in hyperdrive

The first intimation that you are entering a time warp happens during the relentlessly perky animated credits. *This is the way* Hollywood's comedies began in the 1960s, when Doris Day and Rock Hudson got themselves into a romantic tizzy among settings of metropolitan splendour. Those films themselves looked backwards in part — to the 1930s, when comedy was regularly dressed in dinner jackets and evening gowns.

The First Wives Club is set in the 1990s and spins a different kind of plot: this is a tale about three wives out to wreak revenge on the husbands they nurtured, only to be dumped for younger models. But the film's fascination with rich people in New York, with its hotel bars, glamorous buildings, auction rooms and spacious apartments, plonks it firmly in the past.

Not that the stars have any intention of making this a museum piece. Considering the paucity of juicy parts for middle-aged ladies, who can blame Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn for attacking the script with hammer and tongs? Seen separately they can be reasonably funny; but when all three rampage at once, you'd better hide under your seat.

The trio play college chums who find a new source of camaraderie when the middle-age blues begin. Keaton's Madison Avenue husband wants a divorce. Midler's husband, the owner of electronic stores, takes a thin blonde cashier to bed. Hawn, cast as an Oscar-winning actress, is offered the mother role in her former partner's new movie. The starring role is going to his extremely young girlfriend. Such slings and arrows force the ladies to drop their rings into a champagne glass to launch the First Wives Club and fight back.

The director Hugh Wilson, best known for *Guarding Tess* and his TV work on *WKRP in Cincinnati*, wisely keeps his head down and lets the stars work what magic they can. Each is allowed to spoof their screen image. Hawn does it the most, strutting her body beautiful, savouring the tart lines in Robert Harling's script. But Wilson's relaxed approach does the film no favours as the comedy tips over into outright farce. An escapade on a window cleaner's gondola starts the film's slow descent into overindulgent silliness, while the sentimental ending utilises many of the earlier barbs gleefully thrown at the menfolk.

The supporting cast puts up a good show as the trio prance about. Maggie Smith is briefly delicious as the Queen of Manhattan society. Sarah Jessica Parker gets the most from her role as the social-climbing cashier. The husbands, too, preen and suffer in some style, particularly Victor Garber. But the film would be nothing without its stars as they threat, break and enter, gloat and join in a musical knees-up. Audiences beware.

The First Wives Club
Empire, PG, 102 mins
Broad comedy driven by star power

True Blue
Odeon Leicester Square
15, 118 mins
Damp drama about the University Boat Race

The Day the Sun Turned Cold
Curzon Phoenix
12, 100 mins
Spellbinding film set in rural China

The Island of Doctor Moreau
Empire, 12, 95 mins
Ridiculous adaptation of H. G. Wells

Films about sporting achievements usually involve nailbiting tension, an adrenalin rush, striving, muscular bodies and roaring crowds packed together under a stadium's bright lights. Not True Blue, given this year's Royal Film performance on Tuesday. This is a film about the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. It snows. It rains. The Oxford crew drive to and from practice in the club's white van. In theory there is tension galore among the team, since this is the story of the Oxford mutiny in 1987 when world-class Americans were force-fed into the crew and the dissent prompted newspaper headlines. But, unlike *Chariots of Fire*, *True Blue* never makes the characters or the issues seem important. Who cares who sits in the boat? Who cares who wins?

Rupert Walter's script, based on the memoirs of the Oxford team's coach, Dan Topolski, endeavours to pin the drama upon different approaches to gamesmanship. The British members, led by the actor Dominic West, are amateurs at heart, full of team spirit, rowing for the honour of their university. The Americans, led by Brian McGovern, are conscious of their star status, used to better facilities and less autocracy from above. *"This guy's out of date!"* one of them cries, as Topolski — played by the Belgian actor Johan Leysen — keeps telling them what's what.

The trouble is, neither cast, nor script, nor Ferdinand Fairfax's dull direction, makes either side in the conflict worth embracing. You want thrills and spills on the river; instead you get American brats and British dullards squabbling over training tactics. Once the Americans fail to dislodge the team's president and pull out of the race, the film strengthens slightly and adopts the reliable formula of underdogs battling the odds. The Boat Race itself, held during some stirring spring weather (driving rain), generates modest excitement; and the music of *Stanislas Syrewicz* works overtime emulating the theme music of *Chariots of Fire*. But it all comes too late. *True Blue* is a grey, damp experience, a little film striving to be big.

The weather in **The Day the Sun Turned Cold** is not much better. Deep snowdrifts, biting cold. A violent storm erupting from nowhere on to the bleak expanse of north-eastern China. But this time the images sing with beauty, and help to crystallise the deep emotions stirred by Yim Ho's tale. This is a powerful story, based on truth, about family violence, secret love, a possible murder and the bond between mother and son.

Yim's film begins like an oriental TV police show. A young man, Guan Jian, enters a small urban police station and reports the murder of his father. The suspected murderer? His mother. Flashbacks transport us to the man's village and Yim — born in Hong Kong, trained in the 1970s at the London International Film School — begins to demonstrate a masterful control of figures in landscapes, and telling social detail.

Guan's parents are locked in an unhappy marriage. The mother finds some relief in a woodsman's arms. The father responds with his usual punishment, a vigorous beating. Subsequently he dies in agony after a meal the mother would not let her children share. Poison? It seems so: and the search for truth takes Guan and the police captain back to the crime scene.

For Western audiences, this film has many fascinating aspects. Here is peasant Chinese life unaffected by communist edicts. Here are small-town policemen, warily doing their business, much like their Western counterparts. But above everything the story and characters grip: and Yim's humane regard for his sinners means that, although the temperature may be freezing, the audience never ices over.

The Island of Doctor Moreau was denied a press screening, which seems unfair. Film critics need a good laugh as much as anyone. And what other film in history offers the sight of Marlon Brando, caked in make-up, waving limply, carried aloft through his island population of half-human beasts on what looks like a customised Popemobile? Or Brando tickling the ivories in his nightgown, striving to educate the creatures in the difference between 12-tone music and Gershwin?

When Brando is on parade it is possible to enjoy this latest *adaptation* of H.G. Wells's tale as a camp entertainment. But once the island grotesques rampage and Moreau falls victim to his own creations, the film grows more nasty than silly. One can also take little pleasure in watching a good director, John Frankenheimer, crumple before an incoherent script. Or seeing David Thewliss, so good in *Naked*, lose his way in the Hollywood jungle as a stranded UN peace negotiator. "This is the most *outrageous* spectacle we've ever witnessed," he bleats at *one point*. Quite.

Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton are cornered in *The First Wives Club*

'A bit too silly'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

SNAP VERDICT

☐ ***THE FIRST WIVES CLUB***

Ben Peters, 22: I expected to really dislike this, believing it to be another of those "all men are rubbish" films. And it was one of those films.

Lucy Knight, 22: Fun, but not up to the hype. Perhaps a bit too silly.

Richard Wright, 20: Enjoyable, despite my mother telling me that I probably wouldn't understand it.

Holly Peters, 20: Goldie Hawn was a bit over the top, but Diane Keaton and Bette Midler were just right.

☐ ***TRUE BLUE***

Ben: Largely tedious; almost as boring as rowing itself.

Lucy: I suppose what kept me occupied was the "ogle at men's muscles" factor, but that was hardly enough.

Richard: It tries to say things about Britain's relationship with America, but it should have just stuck to the action.

Holly: I have never watched the Boat Race in my life, and so my interest was minimal.

☐ ***THE DAY THE SUN TURNED COLD***

Ben: It seems that all films set in China are excellent, and this was no exception.

Lucy: One of the best things about this was the settings. The snowy landscapes set the tone for the film which, although bleak, is extremely watchable.

Richard: It took me a while to get into this — I thought it was going to be a John Woo-type film with deaths every second.

Holly: A bit confusing; I would like to watch it again to appreciate it more.

Silence falls on deaf ears

RADIO: **Peter Barnard** says the BBC botched the two-minute tribute on Armistice Day

TWO Radio 4 listeners, both women aged about 40, were in the same car listening to *Woman's Hour* on Monday when 11am approached. They told me later that if they could not be still for the silence on Armistice Day, the next best thing was to share it with the nation via radio.

Only when the usual news bulletin was broadcast, including an item about the act of remembrance, did they realise that Radio 4 had chosen not to mark the moment at all. The BBC had decided that there would be two *minutes' silence* only on Radio 2 (and on BBC 1).

The interesting thing was the deduction made by both women about why Radio 2 had been chosen. They wanted the silence on all five BBC networks, but *assumed that* Radio 2 was now regarded within the BBC as the network that most typified the corporation's attitude to radio: "bland and unchallenging", as one of the women put it.

I do not share that view, but I do think that the BBC made a serious error on Monday. And the most worrying aspect was that the corporation appeared to have *misjudged* the national mood, something of which the BBC is not normally guilty.

The distasteful antics of Chris Evans on his Radio 1 *Breakfast Show* and the absurd dumping of *Round Britain Quiz* from Radio 4 are only two of the recent pieces of evidence cited by those who believe that BBC Radio's traditional role as the keeper of the national conscience and the bellwether of the national mood is being sacrificed to *commercialism* and the hunt for ratings.

This attitude exaggerates the problem, but that does not alter the fact that there is one. Much of the BBC output remains of a quality commercial stations can only *dream* of, but there is a *sense among* many listeners that the centre is not holding, that traditional values come second to expediency.

Clearly the BBC was expecting trouble over the two minutes' silence and prepared its retaliation in advance. *Unfortunately the* form of that retaliation, *which included a statement* from Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, that the BBC had decided "not to impose a silence" on all its listeners and viewers, was crass and insensitive.

A complete silence on every BBC network for two minutes would have been as powerful a salute to the war dead as could be imagined. Instead, the BBC botched it *on Monday and in doing so* the "national broadcaster" *missed* a chance to reinforce its position.

> ‘The BBC does not normally misjudge national moods’

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■ CHOICE 1

The anniversary of Manuel de Falla's death is marked in London

VENUE: Tonight at the Wigmore Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Peter Maxwell Davies conducts his own music in Manchester

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Northern College

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

More ho-hum than humbug: Anthony Newley summons the ghost of Musicals Past in *Scrooge*

■ DANCE

Cheers for the Caracalla Dance Theatre's survival, but little cheer in its kitsch London show

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY: An exhibition spanning 75 years of American photography, from 1890 to 1965, opens today. Drawn from the *collection of the Museum of Modern Art* in New York, 185 images by some of the most important and celebrated photographers of the century define and reflect every aspect of *American life*. Featuring works by Alfred Stieglitz, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Paul Strand and Irving Penn.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Mon, noon-5.50pm. Tue-Sun, 10am-5.50pm. Until January 26. ♿

FAIR LADIES AT A GAME OF POEM CARDS: Verse play by Peter Oswald, based on an 18th-century Japanese puppet play: forbidden love at court, with David Haig playing one of the obstacles the lovers must overcome. John Crowley's debut as director here.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens November 20, 7pm. Then in rep.

NASH ENSEMBLE: Conductor Lionel Friend leads a musical journey to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of the Spanish composer Manuel de Falla (1876-1946). With Jean Rigby, mezzo-soprano, Steven Smith, guitar, Ian Brown, harpsichord, and Juan Martin, flamenco guitar.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 *(0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.* ♿

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra performs music from its native country, as part of the fifth anniversary season at the *Symphony Hall*. Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi conducts a selection of orchestral showpieces, including *Berlioz's Roman Carnival Overture*, Liszt's popular *Les Préludes and Dvořák's evergreen* Symphony No 8. Denes Varjon performs Liszt's sparkling Piano Concerto No 1.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-*212 3333). Tonight, 8pm.*

HARROGATE: First night for **Teechers**, John Godber's inventive classroom comedy. School leavers Gail, Salty and Hobby take us, and their new drama teacher, on a riotous exposé of their final year.
Harrogate, Oxford Street (01423 502116). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat (Nov 23, 30, Dec 7), 2.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer/conductor of the BBC Philharmonic, *leads the orchestra in a series of three concerts entitled* The Max Factor. The first, headed "Influences", includes Sibelius's Symphony No 4, one of Davies's favourite orchestral works. It is followed by the Manchester premiere of *The Beltane Fire*.
Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road (0161-273 5534). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

STRATFORD: A new season begins with **Everyman**, the early 16th-century morality play. Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni direct.
The Other Place, *Southern Lane* (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then most evenings at 8pm, mats on some Thurs and Sat, 2pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries: Nothing Else But Noise and Dance: Theatrical Entertainments in 18th-Century London (0171-323 7111) . . . **London International Gallery of Children's Art**: *Through the Eyes of a Child* — British and Chinese Children's Art (0171-431 1200) . . . **National**: Making and Meaning: Rubens's Landscapes (0171-747 2885) . . . **Royal Academy**: From Mantegna to Picasso (0171-439 7438) . . . **Saatchi**: Young British Artists VI: Baseman, Coombs, Heath, Isaacs, *Saunders (0171-624 8299)* . . . **Whitechapel**: Inside the Visible (0171-522 7888) . . . **Whiteleys: Chamatkara** — Myth and Magic in Indian Art (0171-*229 8844)*

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AS YOU LIKE IT**: Steven Pimlott's superbly cast production from this year's Stratford comes to London where it will *run until March*.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7pm. In rep. ♿

◩ **BY JEEVES**: Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Wodehouse heroes first attempted 20 years ago, now entirely revised.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ ***DIAL "M" FOR MURDER***: Wife-killing thriller, written when phone numbers still included letters — and its old-age is self-evident.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ ***FOOL FOR LOVE***: Ian Brown directs Barry Lynch and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepard's fierce drama of love on the edge of the Mojave *desert. With Gawn Grainger and Martin* Marquez.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm. *Until Nov 30.*

☐ **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**: Restored theatre, revived show, the *theatre after 56 years, the show back to* celebrate its 25th anniversary. Gale Edwards directs a reconceived production.
Lyceum, *Wellington Street, WC2* (0171-656 1807, booking fee). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Nov 19, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **MARTIN GUERRE**: The latest Boublil/Schönberg musical brings banal lyrics to a confusingly *told tale*.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **OLD WICKED SONGS**: Bob Hoskins returns to the stage to play a Viennese music professor teaching *Schumann to an arrogant young pianist* (James Callis). Elijah Moshinsky directs Jon Marans's play, said to be humorous, poignant and wise.
Gielgud, *Shaftesbury Avenue, W1* (0171-494 5065). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 18, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tue, 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm.

■ **THINK NO EVIL OF US**: Subtitled "My Life with Kenneth Williams", a solo *show by David Benson, winner of a* Fringe First at this year's Edinburgh, part biography, part autobiography.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm. Until December 7.

☐ **WHEN WE ARE MARRIED**: Dawn French, Alison Steadman and Leo *McKern head the splendid cast of Jude* Kelly's production of the Priestley evergreen, first seen at Chichester.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

◩ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**: Diana Rigg and David Suchet *in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida* production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.15pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ◩ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ☐ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ ***Starlight Express***: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ◩ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . ☐ **Tommy**: Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society *of London Theatre*

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE CRAFT** (15): High school misfits delve into witchcraft. Routine fare with bright moments. With Fairuza Balk, Robin Tunney; director, Andrew Fleming.
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE EIGHTH DAY (PG): Harassed businessman is humanised by a Down's syndrome sufferer. Maudlin *disappointment* from Jaco Van Dormael, director of *Toto the Hero*. With Daniel Auteuil, Pascal Duquenne.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

FAREWELL MY LOVELY (PG): Wonderfully caustic Raymond Chandler adaptation from 1944, with Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe. Director, Edward Dmytryk.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **FLED** (18): Chases, fights, and a silly plot. With Laurence Fishburne and Stephen Baldwin; director, Kevin Hooks.
Plaza (0800-888 997) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **MICHAEL COLLINS** (15): Action *ousts politics in Neil Jordan's epic. With Liam Neeson as the Irish revolutionary.*
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

THE PILLOW BOOK (18): Astounding Peter Greenaway film. With Vivien Wu, Ewan McGregor.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Lumière** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

CURRENT

BOSTON KICKOUT (18): School leavers seek good times in Stevenage. Lively debut feature by director Paul Hills, with John Simm, Emer McCourt.
***MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)*

◆ ***BRASSED OFF*** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald.
Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **CHAIN REACTION** (12): Who is sabotaging a university energy project? Slickly packaged, derivative thriller with Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **DRAGONHEART** (PG): Patchwork medieval fantasy about a knight and a dragon with Sean Connery's voice.
Plaza ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE FAN** (18): Psychotic baseball fan Robert De Niro stalks his idol, Wesley Snipes. Wearisome and empty fare from director Tony Scott.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin** ***Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)*

Steptoe and songs

Musicals, musicals. One day we will get Jason Donovan's Lucifer, surrounded by a chorus of cloven hoofers, in *Paradise Lost — The Musical*; or Cliff Richard's Saddam Hussein joining in a dance of human shields in *Let's Go Gulfing*. Meanwhile, here is Leslie Bricusse's heart-lifting but not exactly mind-taxing *Scrooge*, with the redoubtable Anthony Newley injecting his customary humour and pathos into the role of Dickens's granite Ebenezer.

But why invoke Dickens?

THEATRE

Scrooge
Dominion

The musical Newley has been carting round the regions for the last few Christmases, and now brings to London's Dominion, owes its being to what the programme calls "the CCF/CBS Theatrical Motion Picture *Scrooge*". The novelist is not given a formal credit, which may explain why the Scrooge we get is not "hard and sharp as flint" nor seems chilled to the soul with an inner permafrost. As Newley plays him, he is a fey old curmudgeon, a fantastical grouch who potters and bumbles about the stage in a grey overcoat mumbling "bah, humbug", nicking tanners from beggars and incanting "I *hate Christmas, I hate* people".

The pity is that he underreacts to some splendid Tussaud effects. Bob Tomson's fluent, pacey production owes a great deal to the spectacle concocted by Hugh Vanstone and Paul Kieve, in charge of design and "illusions" respectively. Their London is a nice mix of grey brick, fragmented timber and dirty, broken window-panes, and Marley, in Stephen Earle's performance a sort of decaying Restoration beau half-mummified in spectral white, contrives to shriek and soar aloft in admirably *sinister* style.

The trouble is that Newley is apt to greet ghosts and spirits alike as if they were little worse than a series of disagreeable pongs. He has not grasped the lesson that it is an actor's quaking and shaking, not the horror itself, that makes something spine-chilling.

What follows does and does not follow the original story. Christmas Past turns out to be *Scrooge's dead sister*, a chuckling ash-blonde who tunefully assures her scratchy brother that "love is life's greatest gift". Soon the old man is joining Christmas Present, in David Alder's performance a massive Eastern potentate, in an upbeat number called *I Like Life and dancing along with* some smartly dressed human toys. There is no morally instructive visit to the nation's slums and factories, but several to the Cratchits, where Tiny Tim sings something about shiny suns and skies.

After a cautionary trip to Hell in the company of a cowled Christmas Future, Newley *ends as we should* have expected, in Santa Claus costume distributing the contents of some pristine Hamleys to the Cratchit family and joining the company in a rousing reprise along the lines of "I like life, life likes life, and I fully agree".

Anthony Newley as the old curmudgeon Dickens would not have recognised as Scrooge

I cannot say that the pleasant but bland music will resonate for very long in my eardrums, and I fear that the lyrics are already leaving them, especially the ones in which old Scrooge and young Ebenezer mingle their regrets at a lost love: "You were good for me, you were *my day, did all you could for* me, I let you go away."

Still, this is the season of reconciliation and forgiveness, and I am sure there are parents and children, grannies and grandchildren who will enjoy the spectral door-knocker, the jumping Cockneys, *the tiny chorus of* bandaged Marley clones, the sight of Newley somersaulting through the air and much else. Then maybe they can go home and read a story called *A Christmas Carol*. They may well enjoy that more.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Over the top from Lebanon

WHEN dance companies in the West talk of threats to their survival, they are referring to the kind of menace posed by an overdrawn bank account. When the members of Caracalla Dance Theatre speak of life-threatening obstacles, they mean it literally. The Beirut-based troupe spent 17 years dodging bullets during Lebanon's civil war. Today, with peace restored, they can safely *enjoy their* status as Lebanon's premier cultural export.

DANCE

Caracalla Dance Theatre
Peacock

Over the years the company founded by Abdul-Halim Caracalla has visited London regularly, playing largely to an expatriate *Lebanese* audience. To someone not schooled in the Middle Eastern aesthetic or its cultural traditions, Caracalla's productions present a bizarre spectacle.

The work he now brings to London is a riproaring frolic *through* the legend of Dido. The hotchpotch of styles in *Elissa, Queen of Carthage* is bewildering — folk, oriental, contemporary western — and delivered at a relentless pace by dancers decked out in yards of ostentatious fabric. The kitsch flamboyance of the staging is presented without parodic colouring, but the *effusive elaboration of narrative* comes across — unintentionally — as hilarious overstatement.

Caracalla's choreography can appear crude. His portrayal of the Berbers who greet Elissa on her arrival in North Africa is stereotyping at its most blatant. Characterisation — thumping great gestures, flared eyeballs — owes more to Bollywood than Hollywood, but is sincerely felt.

The story moves from 9th-century BC Phoenicia, where Elissa (ie, Dido) is forced to flee Tyre, to North Africa, where she sacrifices herself to the flames rather than betray the memory of her murdered husband. Then — inexplicably — we jump to present-day Lebanon, where we are witness to a traditional country wedding. The shift makes no sense but gives the dancers, and the eager audience, a chance to indulge themselves in a merry Lebanese rave-up.

DEBRA CRAINE

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■ MUSIC 1

The staging of a modern epic: how Zimmermann's *Soldiers* will march into the Coliseum

■ MUSIC 2

Happy memento: James Levine's 25th anniversary gala at the New York Met comes out on CD

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 3

Solti whips the Vienna Phil through Bartók, but misses the pathos of the *Pathétique*

■ TOMORROW

The latest from the Lightning Seeds, and reviews of all the other top new pop albums

OPERA: It's vast, noisy, and in London next week. **Ian Brunskill** looks forward to *Die Soldaten*

The Coliseum goes to war

The drunk is missing. So is the chap who stands at the back. One of the leading men, meanwhile, has injured himself in a fall. And the chorus can only stay till five o'clock.

On an October afternoon three weeks into rehearsal, temporary defeat threatens Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Soldiers*. In the largest of English National Opera's rehearsal rooms in West Hampstead, Sally Jacobs's monumental set stands ready. On it, two dozen singers and actors prepare to run through one of the new production's most complicated scenes.

All of which would be fine, except that this afternoon's session is sandwiched between the dress rehearsal for *The Cunning Little Vixen*, a lunchtime costume fitting, and a performance of *La traviata* at the Coliseum. Hence the absentees.

A week or two later everything has fallen into place, but these logistical headaches — inevitable when a major modern work enters a hard-pressed company's repertory — help to explain why *Die Soldaten (Soldiers)* has had to wait more than 30 years for its first homegrown British staging, though a German production visited Edinburgh in 1972.

The main reason, however, is more basic. "Money," explains David Freeman, director of the ENO production that opens next week. "Other countries can afford to do it, and this country can't. English National Opera can barely afford to do it now. It's expensive, but it's being done on a shoestring compared with how it would be done anywhere else. A lot of favours have been called in."

Not that money solves all the problems. Zimmermann's demand for opera as "total theatre" would tax the richest company. "I think it's probably been done expensively and badly quite a few times," Freeman says. Commissioned by Cologne Opera in 1958, *Die Soldaten* was rejected as "unperformable" when Zimmermann delivered it in 1960. Revised, simplified but still hugely complex, it finally had its premiere in 1965. It remains one of the most important German operas of the postwar years.

It calls for an unusually large cast of singers, actors and dancers, and an exotically augmented orchestra of more than a hundred — not to mention five conductors. There are four offstage percussion groups; one of them, with enough equipment to wage a small war, will have to be sited in a specially converted scenery store in the roof of the Coliseum and relayed through loudspeakers pointing upwards from the pit. "It gets *very* loud," a percussionist warns in rehearsal. He looks pleased.

Zimmermann's score owes something to the Berg of *Wozzeck*, but it embraces everything from Gregorian chant to raucous jazz, from screams and explosions to sensuous lyrical singing. Film and tape are integral to the action, and there are times when several scenes are mounted simultaneously. Zimmermann imagined a "theatre of the future", where the audience might be surrounded by the drama; even on a conventional stage, the effect is bold, original and often overwhelming in its power.

But if complexity is an essential part of the experience, Freeman and the conductor Elgar Howarth are anxious that it should not be overplayed. They approached *Die Soldaten* as the powerful music drama it is, rather than as some awesome technical challenge. "It's very easy for people to get off on the complication," Freeman suggests. "I certainly don't believe you can look at it once and understand everything. But at the same time, there isn't anything that's happening just for effect, or just to be obfuscatory. We really have looked for clarity. Clarity, meaning and passion."

Zimmermann's material suits his radical methods. His source is a play by the 18th-century iconoclast Jakob Michael Reinhold Lenz, an awkward, undervalued figure who anticipated and influenced better-known writers such as Büchner and even Brecht. At the centre of Lenz's *Soldaten* is the ruin of a respectable young woman by a feckless aristocratic officer. But the play sets that individual tragedy in a wider context, painting a vivid picture of the social damage done by licentious soldiery. In his choice of subject, and his decisive rejection of the unities of time, manner and place to which his neo-classical contemporaries adhered, Lenz offered Zimmermann an ideal basis for his own multilayered, multimedia assault on militarism.

Zimmermann's technique is one of collage. The visceral impact of the whole is what endures. But — musically and dramatically — that impact relies on a mass of detail, carefully drawn and organised with precision. "You have to fight your way through individual bits and hope that they fit together," Freeman says. They *do* fit together, if you have an overall game plan. But if you simply try to achieve your game plan in one go, you end up with terrible generalisation. That's what the piece has suffered from."

Rehearsing the first of the opera's big coffee house scenes — here transferred to a nightclub, with a "table dancer" borrowed from Stringfellow's — Freeman reiterates that need for accurate detail. The focus of the scene shifts constantly: from table to table and group to group, but everything on stage demands equal conviction: "When an actor can approach the level of complexity that you see on the street, then you start to get extraordinary and moving work."

Above all, in an opera about soldiers, the soldiering must convince. To that end, Freeman enlisted the help of Lance-Sergeant Tong of the Grenadier Guards. The result was a revelation. He taught the cast drill and "how to do the various things that soldiers do". But he also, Freeman says, "completely upset one's view of what a sergeant in the Guards might be like" — another reminder of the dangers of caricature, and that "people are much more interesting than actors".

In one important respect, however, the general truth of *Soldaten* is more important than the specific. Lance-Sergeant Tong may have made the soldiers act like soldiers, but the army in ENO's production is deliberately "something of an invention", recognisably contemporary, but definitely *not* the British Army or any other.

More than two centuries after the original play, 30 years after the opera's premiere and 25 after the suicide of its composer, our perspective on *Die Soldaten* is not Lenz's or even Zimmermann's. But Freeman hopes to show that the work still speaks with remarkable directness. "The fears in terms of violence and war these days are different," he admits, "so I've tried to relocate the piece in those terms. But like all great works, though its source is its own period, it jumps out of its time."

● Die Soldaten (Soldiers) *opens at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300) next Tuesday*

SUE ADLER

You 'orrible lot: Lance-Sergeant Tong of the Grenadier Guards drills the cast in the ENO production of Zimmermann's *Soldaten*

LONDON CONCERTS

Energetic yet emotionless

BY OPENING its Festival Hall concert under Sir Georg Solti with Bartók's Divertimento for Strings, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra drew attention to its legendary prowess within a single department. Bartók's scoring weaves intricate textures from the string instruments and this performance was a tour de force of interlacing voices, precisely balanced. It was also characterised by rhythmic energy in abundance.

Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No 1 likewise benefited from the spirited Magyar impulse that Solti brought to bear, generating suitably frenzied dance rhythms with devilish abandon.

Alas, these qualities served less well in the major work in the programme, Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony*. After a featureless Adagio introduction, the Allegro was launched with immaculate semiquavers and sharp phrasing. But the urgency was superficial, with little sense of tragic intensity; nor was there any greater passion in the lyrical second subject.

The rest of the movement went through the motions of "storm and stress" without truly evoking the inner emotional turmoil of the symphony. There was one effective passage when the brass tore thrillingly through the orchestral texture, but in the latter stages of the work they were allowed to obliterate more important detail. Likewise, in the first movement, accompaniment patterns were hammered out interminably on the strings, irrespective of the far more interesting woodwind counterpoint going on above. The final chord on trombones and tubas was brought off with a jerk of the baton, instead of being allowed to die away as marked. And so it went on: the Waltz was short on grace or charm, the March was manic without suggesting the menace that lies behind it, while the Finale simply lacked soul.

The famed Viennese virtuosity was always in evidence: the body of strings makes an exceptionally rich sound, the winds were enviably mellow and the solos well taken. Yet there were surprising lapses: the wind chorus in the coda of the first movement could have been more smoothly executed, there were slips in the March, and the ensemble of the chord sequence on lower brass near the end of the work left something to be desired.

Vienna PO/ Solti
Festival Hall

BARRY MILLINGTON

Heavy breathing and tree trunks

A PASSERBY overheard a rehearsal of Xenakis's *Sèrment* in a London church and called the police. So the story goes. If he had seen that the perpetrators of this massed heavy breathing, yelping and human hubbub were bashing their heads with tuning forks, he might have opted for Social Services. The New London Chamber Choir's performance of this arresting work made an auspicious beginning to the five-hour sonic stint, *Soundspace*.

The promise of "a festival exploring musical sound in space" had raised quite a crowd on a drear November afternoon. In fact the artistic director, James Wood, explained it better as an opportunity to focus on voice and percussion, the two primal musical resources, with the newest electronics. For what was missing was just that sonic-spatial reorganisation which can transform the relationship between music and its audience.

Rather than showing off the possibilities of spatial electro-acoustics, Wood seemed more interested in the extent to which acoustic instruments have kept up with technology. His chosen centrepiece was Volker Staub's *Suarogate*, whose forces raised excitement in the foyer — three impressive tree trunks, sirens, hand-blown glass bells and a 20ft stretched monochord. But rather ordinary sounds emerged from them during the long, restrained work that followed. Staub himself performed gymnastically on the tree trunks, but he failed to set up any obvious dialogue. This was about the nature of noises: clearly it required another way of listening.

It was left to James Wood's own *Sèance* to provide a satisfying acoustic experience: using a soprano and vibraphone player, and computer samples with chattering voices behind us, Wood explored the Pythagorean tenet that music is "number made audible". Composing by numbers? In fact, a deeply human drama made from unearthly sounds.

Soundspace
QEH, Purcell Room and Foyer

HELEN WALLACE

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CHANGING TIMES

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Finns, galas and Wagner

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ **YRJO KILPINEN**
Songs
Hynninen/Gothoni
Finlandia 1576 50024 2★★★

IN A year in which Swedish song has been memorably celebrated by Anne Sofie von Otter, similar repertoire from Finland is still little known in comparison with that country's orchestral music and opera. The great Finnish baritone, Jorma Hynninen, has always championed the songs of Yrjö Kilpinen (1882-1959), and this disc reveals just how individual they are.

This selection includes Kilpinen's early, stark settings of old Lapp poems about icy marshes, old churches and distant fells; and his heroic ballads and tender lullabies from the *Kanteletar*, Finland's collection of poetry culled from oral tradition. Hynninen and his excellent pianist Ralf Gothoni also offer nine simple lyrics by Kilpinen's contemporary, Toivo Kuula.

They celebrate, too, an older contemporary, Oskar Merikanto, who wrote the first ever Finnish opera, in a valuable disc of 32 songs (Finlandia 1576 50021 2) written in that gentle National Romantic vocal language which is uniquely Finnish.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **METROPOLITAN OPERA GALA: James Levine's 25th Anniversary with the Met**
DG 449 177-2★★★
Also video. DG 072 451-3

GALAS can turn into marathons. The celebration last April of James Levine's quarter century at the helm of the Met was one. DG's single CD can only select from three hours provided by a starry cross-section of those who have helped to make his tenure there so successful.

Even the video is incomplete. Inexplicably, Alfredo Kraus's Act III aria from *Werther* is on disc only. He was 68 at the time and rightly got one of the three biggest individual cheers of the evening. The others were claimed by two more veterans: Carlo Bergonzi (71) in *Luisa Miller* (video only), and Grace Bumbry (59) in Saint-Saëns's *Samson*.

James Levine: marathon

The audience judged well. So did the organisers in making Renée Fleming the only singer to claim three spots: as Charpentier's Louise, in the sextet from *Don Giovanni* and, superlatively, in the closing trio from *Rosenkavalier*. Ruth Ann Swenson glitters as Gounod's Juliette. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu bill and coo away in the Cherry Duet from Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz* (video only). And Frederica von Stade enchants still in Tipsy Song from *Périchole*.

The final words went to Birgit Nilsson (77), who stepped away from the microphone to deliver Brünnhilde's war cries into the house in homage to Levine. They were built to last in her day.

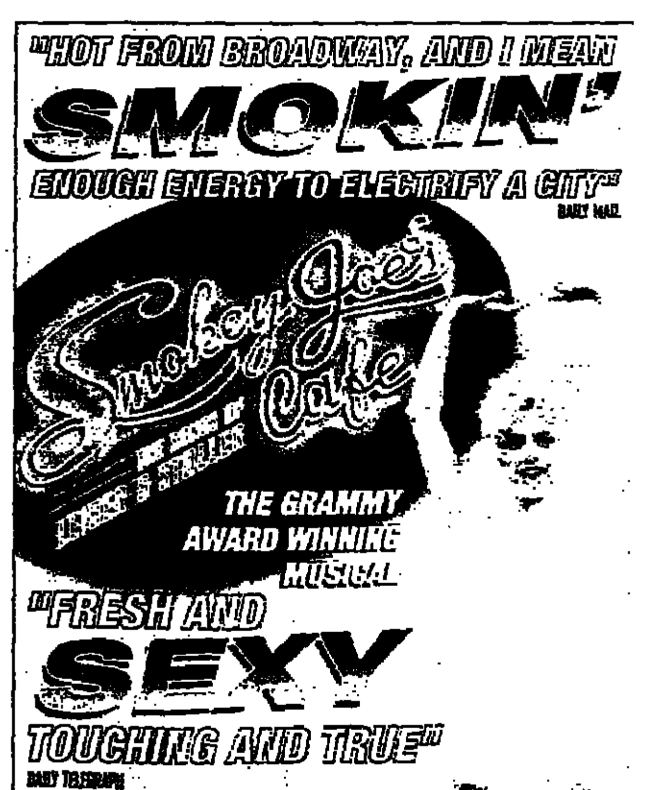
ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **WAGNER**
Overtures: Symphony in E; Wesendonck Lieder (arr. Henze)
Lipovšek/Philadelphia Orchestra/Sawallisch
EMI CDC 5 56165 2★★★

WOLFGANG SAWALLISCH is one of the few senior Wagner conductors to have taken any serious note of the works outside the familiar Bayreuth canon. His 1980s Munich recordings of *Die Feen*, *Das Liebesverbot* and *Rienzi* have all recently been issued in this country, and now, on this new disc with the Philadelphia Orchestra, he offers the overtures to the latter two. He does not stint on the exuberance of *Das Liebesverbot*, but in *Rienzi* he manages to keep on the right side of vulgarity.

It is good to have another recording of Wagner's long-lost, youthful E Major Symphony. Sawallisch in fact gave its world premiere when the score turned up in Munich in the late 1980s and here he gives a robust but sympathetic account of this attractive movement. It is equally good to have another version of the Wesendonck Lieder in the wonderfully sensitive orchestration by Hans Werner Henze. Sawallisch is as alive to the subtle refinements of the score as Marjana Lipovšek is to the sense of the words.



Peter Stothard uncovers the pirates, priests and potentates who made modern archaeology

Digging for victory

THE DISCOVERY OF THE PAST
By Alain Schnapp
Translated by Gillian Varndell and Ian Kinnes
British Museum Press, £25
ISBN 0 7141 1768 4

Portrait of the past: Egyptian mummy, drawn by Rubens in 1626 and sent to the antiquarian Fabri de Peiresc

Whenever the Ancient Greeks spoke of "purifying" a place it was a good time for the local inhabitants to lie low. The Athenian purification of Delos in the years around 425 BC was not quite as deadly as a Nazi delousing or a Serbian ethnic cleansing but it was hardly less euphemistic. Teams of politically motivated priests descended on the tiny island where Apollo was believed to have been born, dug up the native graves, drove out the Delian population and held an enormous purificators' party. The official justification was religious: the real reason was to promote Athenian authority in its war against Sparta.

The event did, however, have one remarkable outcome for the history of ideas. Thucydides describes how in digging out the Delian graves the Athenians discovered remains of men and arms that were different from the rest. He identifies these interlopers among the dead as Carian pirates from the coast of what is now southern Turkey and uses this as evidence to prove the prevalence of piracy in earlier times. Although he was probably wrong in his assumption (the rogue graves were more likely from an older rather than a foreign people), the method of analysis marked a milestone in human thought. Modern archaeology had been born.

The subsequent growth of man's study of the past is the subject of Alain Schnapp's book, originally published in France in 1993 and now available in English in this magnificent edition. His aim is to look beneath the popular notion that scientific archaeology began in the Renaissance and to seek a continuous thread connecting our historical understanding with our historical discoveries. The clues are often indistinct: if only we knew more about the 6th-century Argive writer, Acusilaus, who is said to have written family histories based on bronze inscriptions from his father's garden. But much is tantalising: just as Aristarchus of Samos knew that the Earth moved round the Sun some 1,800 years before northern Europeans discovered the same truth, so did his fellow Greeks know that history was more than ancient myth and contemporary politics; even in the 5th century BC facts could be deduced from artefacts.

It is hard to tell how easy was archaeology's birth: how many thinkers apart from Thucydides saw physical evidence as he had done? We do not know. What is certain is that the subject's childhood was complex and stormy. Most of those who dug relics out of the ground were not interested in establishing the truth about the past; they wanted to make themselves richer or to legitimise their rule. Schnapp vividly cites Strabo's account of how Julius Caesar's soldiers colonised the site of Corinth in 44 BC and ransacked the city's ancient graves for terracotta reliefs and bronzes which they sold in Rome. It was, incidentally, this recolonisation of a city which had been utterly destroyed by Rome a hundred years before which drove the last fatal blow against the prosperity of Delos.

Much of Europe's looting was amateur and unofficial, serving the antiquarian market for nostalgia which has survived to our own day. But some of it, notably that sanctioned by the Ostrogoth emperor Theodoric after the fall of Rome, made grave-robbing legal as long as the ashes of the dead were not disturbed and the proceeds were given to the public treasury. It was a pillagers' charter. The attitude of the Christian emperors was what Schnapp describes as a "confrontation" with history, a struggle "to come to grips with a vast architectural inheritance which could no longer be justified". Only occasionally did the truth break through in a fortuitous fashion "like a rupture of the impervious barrier which separates the present from the past".

By the time of Charlemagne there was political legitimacy to be gained from the unearthing of Greek and Roman relics. There were excavations of the site on which the Gauls had finally surrendered to Julius Caesar. The Emperor himself collected ancient sarcophagi and was buried in one. No European example can compete, however, with that of the Babylonian King Nabonidas in the 6th century BC, who disinterred, recreated and finally reoccupied the palace of a mighty predecessor. The cuneiform tablet on which he boasted of his success, dug up in its turn from the sands of Iraq, is cited by Schnapp, even above Thucydides, as "the first written testament to the awareness and practice of archaeology".

The chapters on the early Renaissance and the great scientific advances of the 17th century are studded with spectacular illustration for which alone the book is worth its purchase price. A selection of elegant diagrams by the Swedish visionary, Olof Rudbeck, testifies to the important Scandinavian contribution to archaeological techniques. A remarkable drawing by Rubens (above) of an Egyptian mummy accompanies the section on the French antiquarian, Nicolas Fabri de Peiresc, a truly great man who tried to carry the entire knowledge of the ancient past in his head, who was consulted by everyone and who, in the best donnish tradition, published nothing.

Peiresc is the type of scholar for whom Schnapp has perhaps the greatest sympathy. *The Discovery of the Past* is not a systematic account and may irritate those who want a straightforward Anglo-Saxon rendition of the subject. It recognises the role of rich collectors and eccentrics as well as rationalists and radicals. Some great English antiquarians, such as the 2nd Earl of Arundel — who himself looted Delos with vigour in the age of Charles I — do not get the attention that they might. It was Arundel of whom it was fairly said that "this angle of the world oweth the first sight of Greek and Roman statues". I suspect that he would have enjoyed this book nonetheless.

The author is Editor of The Times.

Explorers of grey matter

Susan Greenfield

THE ISLAND OF THE COLOUR BLIND
By Oliver Sacks
Picador, £16.99
ISBN 0 330 35081 1

WHEN THE AIR HITS YOUR BRAIN
Tales of Neurosurgery
By Frank Vertosick Jr
Norton, £16.95
ISBN 0 393 03894 7

A neurosurgeon and a neurologist each set out on personal journeys, though of very different sorts. For neurosurgeon Vertosick, it is a rite of passage as he experiences the frustrations, tragedies and insights that gradually weave the rich tapestry of experience of a neurosurgery resident.

In retrospect it is perhaps surprising that those performing this ultimate inside job on the organ of the mind should have remained so silent. The effects on the character, perceptions, and emotions — of doctor and patient alike — that ensue from strokes, tumours, traumas and the bungles of the surgeon's knife, make chilling yet compelling reading. Vertosick has a talent for vivid narrative, so that the reader not only feels present in the operating theatre, but also able to appreciate the implications of all that is occurring. Vertosick, with a few deft strokes, manages to convey the spectrum of human nature in both clinicians and patients — the arrogant, the uncertain, the petrified and the short-tempered all have their voice.

Each chapter could be taken as a stand-alone as it covers a particular case, contributing a different facet in the neurosurgeon's evolving perspective. One particularly harrowing passage, for example, deals with a pregnant woman, refusing therapy in order to avoid an abortion. The foetus and the brain tumour flourish in parallel: one life is given for another. On another occasion, Vertosick drafts a resignation letter because a slip of the knife robs a patient of speech, and finally leads to his death. The author's frank description of his despair and self-disgust will find resonance even beyond clinical careers, as does his final resolution of the crisis.

The book takes its title from, allegedly, the "first rule" of neurosurgery: "You ain't never the same once the air hits your brain." This maxim is validated time and time again, as we witness patient after patient dying or ending up paralysed, blind, speechless. But despite the black times, the message of the book is upbeat. Throughout all the strife there is a sense of compassion, humour, and forward movement.

By contrast, neurologist Sacks's journey is a literal one, among islands in Micronesia in the South Pacific. It is not quite clear why the author embarks on the voyages described here, beyond the clinical interest of seeing for himself certain conditions abnormally prevalent in isolated communities. Although the title refers to an island where there is a high incidence, due to genetic isolation, of complete colour blindness, a substantial part of the book is devoted to another island, Guam, with a far higher than normal incidence of degenerative disorders.

This time however, the reader is somehow at a distance, the disinterested third person not involved in any of the various encounters. Perhaps the somewhat sanitised feel of the account arises from the fact that few of the patients, doctors or guides seem to exhibit any human weakness. The physicians are all resolute of purpose while the islanders have a strong sense of community with undertones of the Noble Savage.

The distressing symptoms of achromatopsia, or the inability to translate thought into movement, are not really used to their full extent to inspire greater reflection on the relation between the mental and the mechanical. Moreover, we are frequently left dangling, baffled by terms that remain unnecessarily obscured: motor neurones are never explained, nor the lethal action of the poison tetrodotoxin, nor the rationale for the beneficial effects of L-dopa — all standard and simple enough conceptual fare that would have enlightened the non-cognoscenti and have made the read that much more worthwhile. And why, for example, does walking up steps or throwing a ball vastly improve Parkinsonian movement? How might one reconcile the different hypotheses of neuronal death on Guam? We are left in a limbo, caught between anecdotes too impersonal to have impact in themselves, yet insufficiently discussed to have a more general value.

Nonetheless, both books reveal new angles on the tantalising issue of brain function, and offer the chance to savour the seeming miracle of subjectivity continuously enacted beneath our skulls. At a time when philosophers and neuroscientists are agonising, in the murky terrain of the mind, over abstracted or invisible phenomena, how refreshing to re-enter the world of real people.

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CHANGING TIMES

Unhappily ever after

Orlando Figes

A LIFELONG PASSION
Nicholas and Alexandra
Their Own Story
By Andrei Maylunas and Sergei Mironenko
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81520 2

One can't help feeling sorry for Nicholas II. He had never wanted to become a tsar, and by temperament and intellect he was better suited for the quiet life of a country squire. He had many of the personal qualities required to be a good constitutional monarch and was certainly no dimmer than his cousin, George V, who was a model of the constitutional king.

But family tradition and pressure from the crown's traditional allies compelled him to rule as an autocrat. Poor old Nicky was not cut out for this. In the end he sacrificed his crown for the care of his haemophiliac son.

It is this private tragedy that evokes our sympathy. We feel for Nicholas and Alexandra as parents and regard them and their murdered children as the helpless victims of the revolution, even if as hapless rulers they did more than anyone to bring about their ruin.

Monarchists in Russia would exploit this sympathy to recreate the myth of the martyred Tsar. There has been an enormous wave of ill-informed nostalgia for the so-called "golden age" of the late tsarist era and the murder of the Tsar's family has come to symbolise the moral degradation of the Communist regime.

In the West it is publishers who exploit our sympathies. This book claims to let Nicholas and Alexandra tell "their own story" by publishing "for the first time" their "hitherto unseen" letters and diaries.

But the vast majority of these have in fact been published many times before, while those which have not, mostly lovey-dovey letters from the early years, are so tedious and repetitive that perhaps they would have been better left in the archives. Moreover, much of the book is taken up with well-known extracts from others' published memoirs, mainly courtiers and politicians. Indeed, at crucial moments, such as the 1905 revolution, there is almost nothing in the Tsar's own words, and the only entry by the Tsaritsa is a note to her daughter Olga, telling her to be "a good loving Christian child". What is new here is not interesting, and what is interesting is not new.

Not that the editors make it easy to differentiate between the two. They do not cite the sources of the documents. Nor do they indicate the many places where they have cut and pasted them.

Maylunas is not an historian — and that is a shame. His selection of the documents tells us very little about the Russia beyond the narrow confines of Nicholas's court or about how it perceived the revolutionary crisis. From the diaries of Xenia (Nicholas's sister) all we get is titbits about her love affair, and from those of the Grand Duke Konstantin we get mostly his sad homosexual confessions, even though both sources, never before published, have much to reveal about politics and attitudes at court. Nicholas's political opinions — repugnant as they are to liberal sensibilities — are left out.

But then it is the editors' intention to indulge our sympathies for the Tsar. As Maylunas puts it in his unspeakably dreadful introduction, "this book is an exercise in mythologizing". His first sentence says its all: "Our story goes like this: once upon a time, there lived a charming and kind young prince ... who fell in love with a beautiful faraway princess."

Who believes in fairy-stories any more?

Tsar Nicholas II's daughter Anastasia from *Anastasia's Album* (Little, Brown, £12.99)

Orlando Figes's A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1914 *is published by Cape, priced £20.*

A draught of vintage Cognac and its paler imitation

George Melly on two views of a painter who changed the way we see the world

A LIFE OF PICASSO
1907 - 1917
The Painter of Modern Life
By John Richardson
Jonathan Cape, £30
ISBN 0 224 03120 1

PICASSO
Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man
By Norman Mailer
Little, Brown, £25
ISBN 0 316 88173 2

At the end of Volume One of John Richardson's flawless biography, we left Picasso limbering up to start work on a *major icon* of modern art, that clumsy masterpiece *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*. It was both a well-baited hook and a natural breaking-off point. Behind lay the sentimentalities of the Blue Period and the subtle melancholy of the Rose. Primitive Iberian sculpture and the compressed perspective of Cézanne were already to hand. Only the revelation of African masks and fetishes was needed to ensure the marvelous accident called Cubism.

If Richardson had confined himself to analysing the work alone he would still have written an extremely valuable book, but I doubt it would have received all the attention it has. This, presumably, is more to do with the procession of mistresses, both Picasso's and his contemporaries', but then Picasso was extremely highly-sexed and, *read correctly*, much of his work is an erotic diary even if written *largely in code. Indeed*, in many ways life in Montmartre and Montparnasse in the first decade of the century seems not unlike the 1960s — no rock'n'roll, of course, but plenty of sex'n'drugs.

But not all sex: there is the vivid historical background, the painter's progress from extreme poverty to affluence, his rapacious cannibalism of other, sometimes lesser talents and the cagey rivalry with Matisse.

As for Picasso himself, this is no hagiography. Richardson, despite his informed admiration, leaves no doubt as to his cowardice and macho cruelty. It is decidedly warts and all. He is equally ruthless when it comes to deflating the mythical balloon, mostly blown-up by the painter himself. This is the beneficial outcome of exhaustive research; not a letter, journal, review or dealer's stocklist seems to have escaped him. As a result the comic-strip version we had come to accept is entirely discredited.

There is a huge cast-list. Many of them, Gertrude Stein for instance, change as the story unwinds. Others, like that eccentric homosexual, holy fool and off-and-on penitent, Max Jacob, mince on like a camp music-hall act at irregular intervals. Most impressive of all is the great panjandrum of the modern spirit (and hopelessly inept proselytizer for Cubism) the poet Guillaume Apollinaire.

Yet all the gossip, enjoyable as it is, remains rightly subsidiary to the central theme: the invention, development and decline of Cubism, and while Fernande Olivier is, at any rate to begin with, Picasso's muse, it is his relationship with his collaborator Georges Braque which is this volume's central triumph. Between 1907 and the outbreak of the Great War (when Braque was called up) they were, as Braque wrote, "roped together, establishing precarious footholds as they scaled uncertain heights."

Nor was Picasso necessarily the innovator (on the contrary, it was Braque who introduced *papier collé*) and yet, at the peak of "analytical" Cubism, their work was so close that it was almost interchangeable, although Richardson rejects the legend that they would sometimes sign each other's canvasses. Cubism, both "analytical" and "synthetic" is at the heart of the book and what follows is, of necessity, sometimes a dying fall.

We take leave of Picasso, in part seduced by the manipulative Jean Cocteau, about to join Diaghilev in Rome where he will make a disastrous marriage to one of the company's ballerinas.

His art, too, is bifuricating into an increasingly decorative Cubism and Ingres-like neo-Classicism. It doesn't look too hopeful but there is no reason to worry. It won't be too long. Richardson reassures us, before the artist is is to hang a sign on the door-handle of his chic studio. It will read "Je ne suis pas un gentleman!"

The painter and his muse: Fernande Olivier and Picasso in 1910

Like Richardson, Mailer writes a great deal about the opium and orgies down at the old Bateaux Lavoir, but unlike Richardson he appears to have no feeling whatsoever for Picasso as an artist. In place of profound insight he relies on bombast and long extracts from other writers to bully us into swallowing his simplistic theories.

Of course, not being at all stupid, he makes the odd shrewd point: that the rich love to own the Blue Period because it makes them somehow feel less guilty about the poor; but when it comes to analysing Cubism, for instance (in my view the peak of Picasso's entire oeuvre), he is like someone trying to dissect a hummingbird while wearing boxing gloves.

At first I felt sorry for Mailer, having to stand comparison with Richardson's magnum opus, but on second thought wondered if their simultaneous publication wasn't a deliberate strategem. Mailer's book is shorter, easier to digest, and stuffed full of erotica and glossy full page colour plates. It put me in mind of a pre-war Australian advertisement for brandy — "the Cognac for people who don't like the taste of Cognac".

Hang them without fail

George R. Urban

THE UNKNOWN LENIN
From the Secret Archive
Edited by Richard Pipes
Yale, £18.50
ISBN 0 300 06919 7

Freshly released documents by and about Lenin are among the most valuable to emerge from the now largely unfrozen Soviet archives. At least two myths are now under scholarly scrutiny: of Lenin, the hard but far-sighted and equitable mover of men and ideas; and of Lenin the righteous avenger — omniscient, ubiquitous and infallible.

The two are, of course, only different faces of the same myth, for in the Byzantine-Orthodox environment of Soviet Russia, Lenin's savage "repudiations" (Winston Churchill's word) might not have survived him without the support of a religious type of hero-worship borrowed from the mentality of the old order and also in its symbols. For seven decades, Lenin-the-Sacred and *Lenin-the-Profane* lived in tolerable if, in its final stages, *strained, symbiosis* — until, in 1989-90, the modern world intruded and brought it down in a bloodless triumph of common sense.

Professor Richard Pipes's superbly edited selection of Lenin's documents, *The Unknown Lenin*, is, of course, taken from the deeds of the living Lenin — from Lenin before he was declared Founder and Seer by the Soviet priestly caste. It detracts nothing from this significant volume to note that Lenin's legend repays study almost as much as the man himself. As Pipes points out in his introduction: "The one sentiment Lenin never appealed to was idealism: apparently he had no faith in it." The more important to expose his worship, and the terrible things committed *in its name, to the* cool light of reason.

For *what some* of these documents show is terrible *indeed. If* Lenin's *myth* inspired vast crimes against humanity, then the man himself did no less. No sign here of the gentle Lenin, of community integrity or trusting the people. The documents confirm what a few years ago General Dmitri Volkogonov demonstrated with devastating clarity: that Stalinism, the show-trials, forced collectivisation and the Gulags were not just the possible, but also the most likely (if not indeed the necessary) outcomes of Lenin's intentions and policies.

We can now see *Lenin as a* man whose outstanding brainpower and *unbending* resolve were harnessed, from the beginning, *to a scheme* of things so Utopian in their purpose and wicked in their execution that only genetic change in the nature of Man would have made possible their practical realisation. Nor were the supposed beneficiaries of all this — the working class — to be exempt from the experiment. "For humankind at large," Pipes tells us, quoting Gorky, "Lenin had *nothing but* scorn ... he treated the working class much *as a metalworker* treated iron ore." Everything *that so* shocked the world about Stalin's crimes when Khrushchev made an almost clean breast of them in his "secret" speech in 1956, is prefigured in Lenin and has to be treated as a single self-portrait of totalitarian rule.

Lenin's attitude to the resistance of desperate peasants was no more generous. In August, 1918, writing to the communists of the Penza district where the farmers had rebelled against the confiscation of their grain, Lenin ordered:

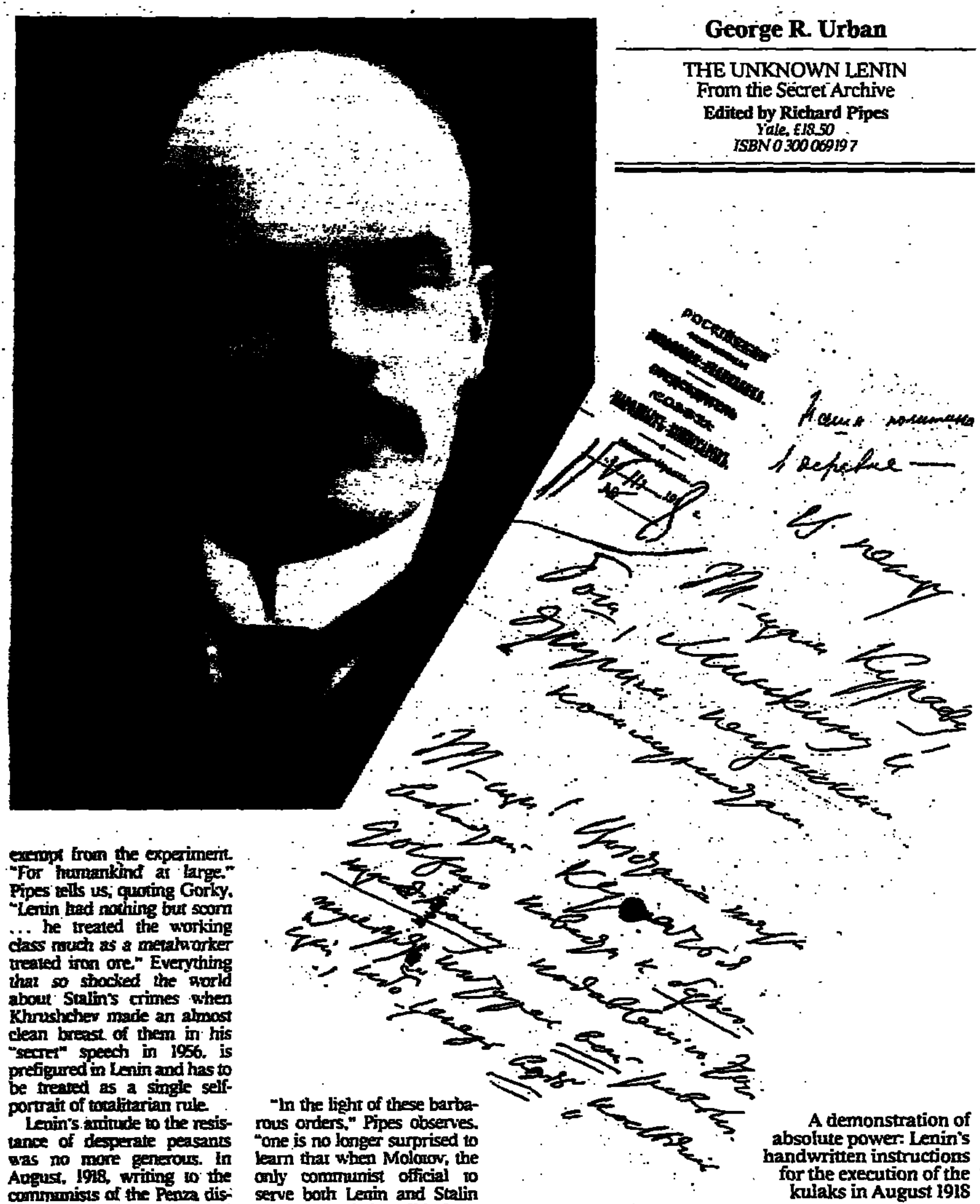
"1. Hang (hang without fail, so *the people see*) *no fewer than one hundred* known kulaks, rich men, blood-suckers. 2. *Publish their names.* 3. Take from them *all* the grain. 4. Designate hostages — as per yesterday's telegram. Do it in such a way that for hundreds of versts around, the people will see, tremble, know, shout: *they are strangling* and will strangle to death the blood-sucker kulaks. Telegraph receipt and *implementation*." (Document 24, Lenin's emphases.)

"In the light of these barbarous orders," Pipes observes, "one is no longer surprised to learn that when Molotov, the only communist official to serve both Lenin and Stalin throughout their political careers, was asked to compare the two, he declared without hesitation that Lenin had been the 'more severe'."

But Richard Pipes' selection *of documents sheds new light* on many other crucial aspects *of early* Bolshevik *rule* as well. Lenin relied on Stalin much more than Trotsky would have liked us to believe. Lenin worked for the export of the communist revolution in Europe and beyond Europe as intensely as Trotsky, using the war against Poland as a potential springboard for the Sovietisation of Germany and Britain, but he badly overrated the revolutionary ardour of the English working class. He initiated the persecution and deportation of dissident intel*lectuals. Above all*, he was convinced that, after the defeat *of the Central Powers and the* punitive Versailles treaties, 70 *per cent of the world's* population was living in a state of subjection ("colonies"), waiting to back communist Russia in a global sweep of revolution "given a correct [Kremlin] policy".

Incisive intelligence, a well-stocked mind, messianic fervour, the ethics of a Ghengis Khan and a capacity for colossal misjudgments were all combined in the head of this warped visionary. So lasting and inescapable was the tyranny of his myth that Mikhail Gorbachev, *in the* terminal days of the Soviet *empire, went on proudly* describing himself as a Leninist — a Leninist, to be sure, who then proceeded to deliver the *coup de grace* to the Leninist system in the name of Vladimir Ilych Lenin. For the myth could be tailored to taste, and *was* mercifully, tailored to taste in those fateful days of 1989-1990.

George R. Urban was Director of Radio Free Europe, 1983-86.



A demonstration of absolute power: Lenin's handwritten instructions for the execution of the kulaks in August 1918

Out in the cold

Donald Cameron Watt

STALIN'S SPY
Richard Sorge and the Tokyo Espionage Ring
By Robert Whymant
I. B. Taurus, £25
ISBN 1 86064 044 3

RICHARD SORGE joined the German Communist Party in its earliest days. He was recruited by the intelligence wing of the Communist Third International and poached from there by the Soviet military intelligence organisation, the GRU, in the late 1920s. He was one of the earliest of Soviet agents to win international fame. The spy-ring which he headed operated in Japan from the mid-1930s to Sorge's arrest, together *with his* collaborators, in October 1941. He was *executed in* 1944.

Sorge was in no sense *"Stalin's spy"*. He *only* escaped being purged in 1937 by *evading his recall* to Moscow; in general, unlike the NKVD's officers abroad, the GRU's agents in place tended to be left to do their job. Sorge's reports of the imminence of the German attack on the Soviet Union in 1941 were dismissed by Stalin as "British provocations".

Sorge's supposed greatest feat was to uncover the Japanese decision, in the autumn of 1941, to move south against Indo-China rather than north against the Soviet Union. Knowledge of this enabled Stalin to save Moscow from Hitler's onslaught by transferring a substantial part of the Red *Army's concentrations in the* Soviet Far East to Europe.

Whymant has persuaded the Russians to release to *him the texts of* Sorge's reports in 1941. Their effect is to cloud this picture of Sorge's success. It appears that from what can only be described as an attack of "bolshieness", Sorge's wireless operator decided in the summer of 1941 only to *transmit about a third of the* messages given him. Whymant's *failure to synchronise* the timing of these messages with the transfer of Soviet troops from the Far East even suggests that at least some of the transfers took place before Sorge's crucial reassurances were received in Moscow.

Sorge: escaped purging

Whymant has interviewed virtually all the survivors from Sorge's circle, including the women he loved and the members of the German embassy in Tokyo, where his friendship with Ambassador Ott made him *persona gratissima*. His cover was that of a commentator on Japanese politics and economics; as such he was perceptive and effective.

His book is heavily weighted towards the months June-October 1941. *It swings* uneasily between Sorge's *highly charged private life* and loves and his reportage *on the debates around the* Emperor on whether and where Japan should strike. In this it must be said that Whymant's failure to match what we now know of the timing and content of those debates with Sorge's reportage sows doubts as to Sorge's previous reputation.

Sorge emerges as a typical le Carré character, cloven between his private and professional concerns, buoyed by his self-esteem, living on the dregs of his once potent ideological convictions, the credibility of his achievements diminished by our total ignorance of what the Soviet decipherers were gleaning from those Japanese military and diplomatic *communications with their* embassies in Europe — *which were to prove so fertile* a source of intelligence for British and American cryptographers. He is nevertheless a character well worth your encounter.

Donald Cameron Watt is Professor Emeritus of International History in the University of London.

Mother of a novel

"SOME WOMEN are born mothers, some achieve motherhood and others have motherhood thrust upon them," declares Kathy Lette in *Mad Cows* (Picador, £12.99, ISBN 0 330 33403 4), her follow-up to the bestselling *Foetal Attraction*. As someone who is about *to have* motherhood *thrust* upon her, I sympathise with *the sentiment. Sentiment is* not Lette's problem. Her heart is in the right place but her mind has meandered while writing this patchwork quilt of a book.

Maddy Wolfe, six-foot Antipodean with attitude, takes her newborn son on a shopping trip to Harrods and is wrongly accused of shoplifting. Banged up in Holloway, she arranges for little Jack to be smuggled out in a handbag; a frantic canter across *London ensues as Maddy* recovers her little boy, loses *him again, finds him once* more and so on — while still finding time to squeeze in a nostalgic fling with her baby's father, the sexually devastating but morally empty Alex.

The jokes against the upper echelons of British society are the weakest parts of the novel; the descriptions of the underbelly of British life are far more interesting. "Inner-city council estates make you believe the world was really built in six days." A chapter entitled "The earth mother mafia" — about how pretentious well-meaning middle-*class mums can* be — is comparatively trite. Taking sideswipes at so-called "political correctness" is unworthy of *Lette's considerable talents*. Lette clearly realises that poverty *is a far worse enemy to* motherhood than liberal orthodoxy *but this book sprays* its venom so widely that most *of it falls far wide of the mark*.

LOUISE DOUGHTY

Be not proud

Adam Mars-Jones

THIS WILD DARKNESS
By Harold Brodkey
Fourth Estate, £14.99
ISBN 1 85702 546 6

WHEN THE French philosopher Raymond Aron wrote his memoir of illness, in the late 1980s, he called it *Mon Sida — My Aids*. A virus may have no morals and no character; but each host entertains it differently. *This Wild Darkness*, subtitled "The Story of My Death", is emphatically about Harold Brodkey's Aids, his and nobody else's.

The book, which covers the period from the spring of 1993 to late autumn of 1995 (Brodkey died early this year), has remarkably little to offer anyone not already convinced of his genius as a writer. The prevailing tone is of weary grandeur, with excursions into stylised lyric and a rather theatrical stoicism ("I am used to reconstituting myself in the middle of catastrophe").

At one point Brodkey goes so far as to describe being diagnosed and hospitalised as a relief — "It was a relief to get away from the tease and rank of imputed greatness ..." He is "relieved" also by the thought of death, after the effort of writing and then of defending what he has written. He refers to "my sad conviction of the *important* validity of my ideas (of what my work presents)" — with sadness such a comfort, it would be greedy to want happiness. If, as he says, "writing keeps you humble," then it must be a particular kind of humility — but then he would never need to stop at one kind ("I have a number of kinds of humility ...").

At intervals Brodkey dives into his self-love and manages *a few lengths, emerging from* the pool refreshed and glowing. *In practical terms it is his* wife Ellen who makes his *survival possible, and though* his attempts at a character *sketch of her are rather* strained, a sense of devotion *does come through. Woe be*tide her, though if she asks *"Do you love me?"* ("Ellen, I feel too disgusting, too subhuman to talk about *love* ... I feel everything is occurring in a flat world, without dimension, without future, without color. Obviously I care about what you do. Obviously I love and admire you ... ") Near the end, Ellen gets something like the last word. Brodkey apologises for his illness making so much work for her, and she says: Harold, you were always this much work.

He *states that he has no* sexual secrets from Ellen, *though his account of his* behaviour is tendentious. At *one point, he claims to have* "experimented with homosexu*ality to break my* pride, to open myself to the story". At *another, to have preferred* "women, and homosexuals" to *"men"* (a *curious distinction*, this), because men "stank of *rage*".

But in the last 20 pages, *illness gets Brodkey where he* lives, in his pride in his work. *He comes to feel that he has* written nothing of value. He *soon recovers, and announces* that if he had to give up what *he has* written in order to be clear of his disease, he *wouldn't do it. For the reader*, though, the affecting parts of the book are likely to be the ones when he is not "Harold Brodkey" but only *Harold Brodkey* — when the virus has nibbled away at even the persona built up over a lifetime.

To order any books, call the Times Bookshop on 0345 660916

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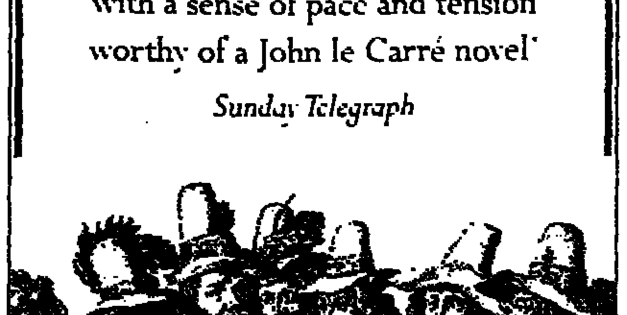

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TENNIS

Henman and Rusedski struggling to season's end

By Alix Ramsay

PLAYED indoors with not a window in sight and under artificial lighting that makes even the healthiest of players look like they have just been dug up, the Guardian Direct British national championships struggled to generate any enthusiasm yesterday. Sure enough, the top two men were doing their stuff, but neither Tim Henman nor Greg Rusedski was in the mood for fun and games.

Both men made inordinately slow starts to their matches, snatching the first set in the tie-break before getting down to business in the second — Rusedski finally disposed of James Fox 7-6, 6-4, while Henman polished off Nick Baglin 7-6, 6-0 — but then Telford comes as something of a culture shock after a year spent on the ATP Tour playing the star names. A week in the gloom playing people only the most ardent tennis followers have heard of takes some getting used to.

"This tournament is a bit of a let down, because the season is over for us on the ATP Tour," Rusedski said. "Mentally, I could have been more focused, but it's good to have a close match, to get used to the court and surroundings. But I always felt in control, there was no chance that I would lose."

Looking forward to a holiday next week before preparations start for next season, Rusedski is reasonably happy with the end of his year. He began 1996 ranked No 33 in the world, his highest to date, before sliding down again at a rate of knots and then climbing back over the past few weeks. "I'm ranked No 48, but I feel like I'm a much better player now than I was at the end of last year," he said.

His career has been a series of highs and lows. He broke into the top 50 for the first time three years ago and, since then, has been up and down the rankings like a yo-yo. Looking at the rise and rise of Henman this year, Rusedski can see where the future pitfalls lie. "The first year you come up is a lot easier," he said.

"This year, everything has been a bonus for Tim, although he has still done fantastically well. But next year will be a lot harder for him. That will be an interesting year, a real test. When I broke into the top 50, I was only 19 and the following year I had a big drop. Tim will be 23 next year, he's more mature and I think that will help him."

As for Rusedski, he will spend the next few weeks planning for 1997 with his coach, Brian Teacher. Gradually, he feels, the brain and the body are beginning to work together on the key points, even if it was not happening too regularly yesterday. James Fox is not the toughest of opponents, ranked No 16 in Great Britain and No 590 in the world. He spent much of last year deciding whether he wanted to play tennis at all.

To look at, Fox seems to be a player in the Luke Milligan mould — rather skinny, with a big, baggy shirt and an old face. Like Milligan, he is an awfully nice chap, which is perhaps why Rusedski did not have the heart to finish him off. The British No 2 served for the first set at 5-3 and was broken, held three set points on Fox's serve at 5-4 and still could not do the deed. Even with three match points in his pockets, Rusedski threw in a couple of double faults to give Fox a chance, before finally managing to win.

At least Sam Smith was able to break out of the Telford torpor. She had her scare in the first round and, back on court again yesterday, was not going to fall into the same trap twice. The women's No 1 seed wasted little time in beating Lizzie Jelfs 6-1, 6-3 and plays Claire Taylor today in the quarter-finals.

Schoolboy sets out to emulate uncle

ADRIAN BROOKS

Cousins is intent, for now, on enjoying the competition that has become synonymous with his surname

Cousins has virtue of relative values

John Hennessy sees history repeating itself at the British ice skating championships

Once, there was one Cousins in British ice skating, Robin, the Olympic champion of 1980. Then there were two, when Steven (no relation) began winning a series of national titles in 1989. Now there are three, with the emergence of Tristan Cousins, a nephew of Robin, who is competing for the junior title at the Tesa British championships at Guildford, which begin today.

Tristan, a 14-year-old of surprising maturity, is quick to recognise that his claim to attention rests upon his name and his distinguished pedigree. "I'm just going out to enjoy myself here," he said. "I know I can't win and I don't want to win. It's too early. I shall just play safe and put triple jumps on hold."

He won the primary championship earlier this year and could spend four more years as a junior. The thought is not in his mind. "Two years at this level will be enough," he said.

Before he moved to Brighton, Robin Cousins would often see his nephew training at Stevenage, where he comes under the tutelage of Viktor Teslia, a member of the Russian academy. Indeed, Steven and Tristan were members of a team sent to Slovenia under Robin's stewardship.

The youngest Cousins is conspicuously short-sighted, a defect that he believes confers an advantage. "It's quite nice not to see the judges. . They take your concentration away and you tend to forget what you're doing." Although recognising that bearing a surname like his can be a handicap, he submits like a trouper to the many demands made upon him by the media.

When the time came to skate the short programme yesterday, he was as good as his word, putting the triple jumps behind him and settling for a high double axel (reminiscent of Robin), a double flip, double toe loop and a double lutz, even though he touched down with his free foot. His marks ranged as high as 4.5, but were sufficient only to leave him in fourth place going into the free skating today.

It is better, perhaps, to concentrate for now on Cousins's namesake, Steven, and discover how he will react to a his dismal world championship display in Canada in March. After finishing fifth in the men's short programme there, he followed that with the "the worst performance of my life", to drop to fifteenth place. However, the same country offered some reassurance last week, where Cousins finished fourth in the Skate Canada competition in an outstanding field led by Elvis Stojko, the world champion.

It should help Cousins's cause in attempting to win his eight successive senior British championship here this week that his two most dangerous opponents, Neil Wilson and Clive Shorten, have both encountered setbacks in training.

The women's senior event has suffered even more, with the withdrawal of Stephanie Main, the holder, and Nancy Manning, who was fifth last year. Main has had a tonsil operation and Manning has an injured back. In their absence, the spotlight falls on two skaters from Swindon, Jenna Arrowsmith, the winner two years ago, and Zoe Jones.

FOOTBALL

New survey reveals changing face of fans

By John Goodbody

WIMBLEDON'S forthright football style may not impress the more refined critics, but the club still has a higher proportion of season-ticket holders who are university graduates than any of its FA Carling Premiership rivals. This increasing shift in all clubs towards the more affluent and educated supporter was revealed in a new national report published yesterday.

Of the Wimbledon season-ticket holders surveyed, 38.6 per cent have a degree, compared with Manchester United's 36.8 per cent and Leeds United's 34.6 per cent, their two closest rivals.

There is also a growing number of spectators whose salaries are higher than £30,000, putting them among the top eight per cent of earners in the country. Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive said: "No club would be depressed about having affluent fans. There is no need to be ashamed at these figures. However, we also have to ensure that the new generation of supporters are coming through."

John Williams, of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for football research at Leicester University, which published the report, said: "Fewer affluent season-ticket holders now go to every game. They buy their season tickets because they know that there will be pressure on tickets for certain matches and for the other fixtures they lend their season tickets out to friends."

Williams added: "Women are also increasingly going to games. However, there must be concern that some of the new supporters are not always attached to a particular club. They sometimes regard themselves as customers, not as supporters, and would, therefore, be less reliable in their attendance if the club does badly. This should set some alarm bells ringing."

The increase in the proportion of affluent supporters follows the move to all-seat stadiums after the Taylor Report in 1990. The survey, the biggest ever on supporters, was carried out on 20,470 spectators, more than 1,000 for each Premiership club.

SAILING

Ariel crew survive mishaps to stay in front

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

THE BT Global Challenge fleet is not the only one to be keeping the spinnaker builders in business. Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's eight-strong Clipper 96 fleet has been working its way through a fair few sails as the 60ft. David Pedrick-designed sloops have surfed their way towards Fort Lauderdale in Florida.

The leading boat, Ariel, skippered by Ras Turner, has a 160-mile cushion over her pursuers and has only about 200 miles left to sail. She should be the first to finish the opening leg sometime today and Sir Robin will be waiting to congratulate the crew.

Behind her, Chrysolite, under Colin de Mowbray, has moved into second place after covering 205 miles in the last 24 hours. Mermerus, skippered by Jim Thom, fell to third, where she has a slim 20-mile advantage over Taeping, under the charge of Adrian Faiers.

The Clipper crews have pushed hard and stretched their expanding sea-faring abilities to the limit on this leg and, as a result, almost every boat has suffered damage to spinnakers and some, including Ariel, to poles as well.

Chris Wilcox, an Ariel crew member, said: "As long as the Atlantic leg continues, the race has become one of preserving your boat as much as boatspeed. Most boats have, to one degree or another, had mishaps with spinnakers and poles and our ability to improvise repairs on board has been tested to the limit."

☐ Pete Goss, of Great Britain, on Aqua Quorum, slipped from seventh to tenth place on his way through the Canaries in the Vendée Globe non-stop single-handed round-the-world race. However, he overtook Catherine Chabaud, on Whirlpool-Europe 2, yesterday to claim back ninth place. The leader, Yves Parlier, on Acquitaine Innovations, is being hotly pursued by Isabelle Autissier, on PRB, both of whom are about 50 miles ahead of the main group, which is led by Hervé Laurent, on Groupe-LG 1.

CRICKET: AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY SUMMONS REINFORCEMENTS FOR MATCH WITH ENGLAND A

Marsh calls for outside help

From a Special Correspondent in Mount Gambier

RODNEY MARSH would never admit it, but he has unwillingly paid England a huge compliment. His choice of two over-age players in the Australian Cricket Academy squad to face the A team here tomorrow does not indicate fear of the touring party, but it certainly reveals a healthy respect that was never evident during his playing career.

Marsh, head coach at the Academy, will be remembered for labelling England's bowlers "pie-throwers" as much as for being a ferocious competitor who refused to give an inch, particularly when playing the Poms. However, his reaction to England A's outstanding win over South Australia in Adelaide earlier this week has been to call up Jeremy Allen, 25, a seam bowler who has represented Western Australia, and Shawn Craig, 23, a left-handed opener and leg spinner who scored a century against the Academy for Victoria 2nd XI last season, which indicates that his recent remark that his present crop were "not up to scratch" could be the truth.

David Graveney, the England A manager, while suspicious of Marsh's selection, is delighted at Australia's re-evaluation of the England party after their win over the holders of the Sheffield Shield. "The purpose of this tour is get a little respect for our cricket in the eyes of Australia and the victory has done that," he said. "People will now sit up and take notice and realise we are not bad players and that we have some people who will be knocking on the door next summer."

Jason Gallian, who missed both matches in Adelaide with a hand injury, is almost certain to return for England A, but Dean Headley may be rested after his match-winning performance against South Australia.

New Zealand finally rule over Sri Lanka

NEW Zealand qualified for the final of the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah yesterday after a day of drama and confusion over the rules of the competition.

New Zealand lost by four wickets to Pakistan in their last league fixture and ended the preliminary section of the tournament level on three points with Sri Lanka. Mike Smith, the tournament referee, first announced that Sri Lanka had advanced to the final against Pakistan on Friday because of a superior net run-rate.

However, soon after, Smith, the former England captain, changed his mind and decided that New Zealand had qualified for the final because of their better record in the group matches against Sri Lanka. His decision came after a phone call to David Richards, chief executive of the International Cricket Council, in London.

☐ Don Kenyon, Worcestershire's first county championship-winning captain, died in hospital on Tuesday night after being taken ill at a function at New Road. Kenyon, 72, played for Worcestershire for 21 years and made eight Test appearances for England in the 1950s.

GOLF

Westwood a big hit in Japan

From Patricia Davies in Miyazaki, Japan

LEE WESTWOOD, 23, from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, was driving on the practice ground at the Phoenix Country Club here yesterday when Jack Nicklaus, 56, from Columbus, Ohio, arrived. As the Golden Bear tried to stretch his muscles into compliance in preparation for the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament, the richest in Japan, which starts today, he had to raise a wry eyebrow as he stared at the unfamiliar broad back of yet another big-hitting youngster.

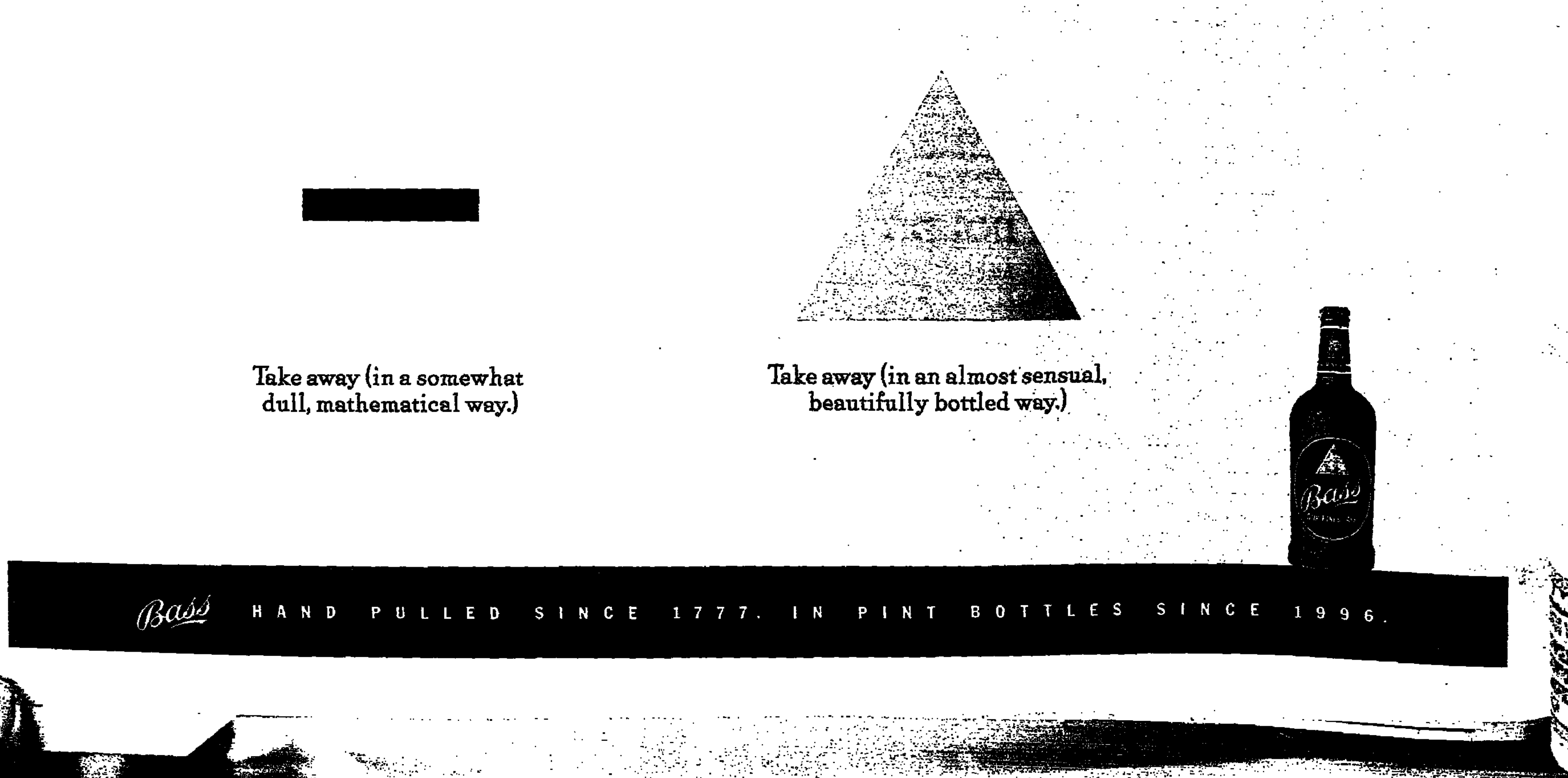
Nicklaus might yet get to know Westwood, for the young Englishman, who finished sixth on the European order of merit last season, winning once, won the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters last Sunday, his first victory in Japan in only his second tournament here.

Westwood, aside from being 20 million yen (about £110,000) richer, has noticed a difference already. "I was at the airport," he said, "and I must have been stopped by 20 people, who said 'Visa champion' and wanted to congratulate me. They'd all seen it on television."

Now Westwood has high hopes of receiving an invitation to the Masters at Augusta in April — his wedding, to Laurae Coltart, sister of Andrew, was scheduled for the Saturday of the Masters, but has been put on hold, just in case.

He is also thinking about making the Ryder Cup team next year at Valderrama, a course he showed he could play when he tied for second place in the Volvo Masters at the end of last month.

In the meantime, he can enjoy sharing practice grounds in exotic places with the likes of Nicklaus and Tom Watson, along with the familiar faces of Costantino Rocca, Frank Nobilo, Thomas Bjorn and Vijay Singh.


Take away (in a somewhat dull, mathematical way.)
Take away (in an almost sensual, beautifully bottled way.)
Bass
Bass HAND PULLED SINCE 1777. IN PINT BOTTLES SINCE 1996.

RACING: NICHOLSON LOOKS TOWARDS CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL WITH IMPRESSIVE HURDLING NEWCOMER

Mighty Moss rewards shrewd investment

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE underlying reason why National Hunt racing remains a sport while the Flat scene increasingly resembles a business, is that success is less dependent on the size of an owners' wallet. Ask Ken Hutsby or the owners of Pleasure Shared.

On a trip to Ireland a couple of years ago, Hutsby spotted a horse's head poking out of a box. The Stratford farmer liked what he saw and, after consulting David Nicholson, bought the unbroken three-year-old for a song.

Yesterday, at Worcester, his judgment was vindicated when Mighty Moss, one of the leading bumper horses of last season, made an impressive hurdling debut which had Cheltenham Festival written all over it. Just how much he paid for Mighty Moss remains a secret. "We're only poor old farmers," he chuckled. "Ten thousand pounds?" someone asked. "Oh no, nothing like as much as that."

What is certain is that Mighty Moss could fetch upwards of £100,000 given his potential. But do not expect Hutsby to be interested in a quick profit as Mighty Moss is helping maintain a magnificent family tradition.

Fred Hutsby, the owner's 20-year-old son, is the fourth generation of the family to ride successfully as an amateur. His grandfather, Henry, was among those at Worcester to cheer home the 13-8 favourite. The Sun Alliance Hurdle is a likely target.

The rags-to-riches story involving Pleasure Shared is not so straightforward. Kim Bailey, the Lambourn trainer, sent the former Irish horse to Ascot sales 18 months ago after he had been disappointing. Philip Hobbs had a hunch that the horse "might win a race somewhere" and paid a speculative £10,000. Last season he won four of his six starts, and ended up the highest rated staying novice in the country.

Pleasure Shared faced a new challenge in the £19,000-added Worcester Novices' Chase, when he made his debut over fences against the best field of staying novice chasers seen so far this term. When he met the first fence all wrong and landed on his belly, the omens were not good. Chris Maude somehow kept the partnership intact and set off after his ten rivals.

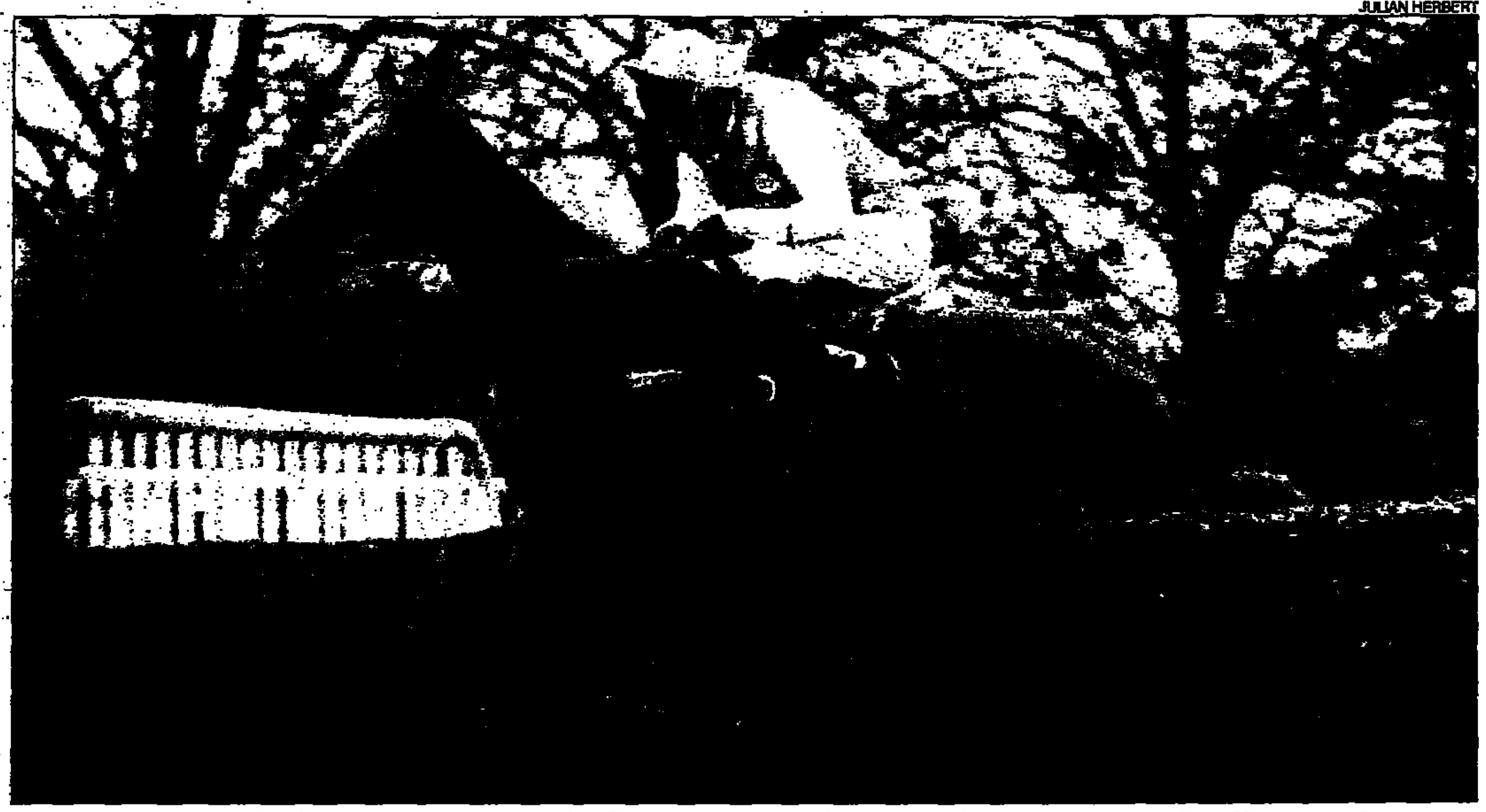
On the second circuit, Maude gradually moved Pleasure Shared into contention and, turning for home, was poised, along with Around The Gale, behind Mony-Skip. Although Around The Gale appeared to be travelling the stronger, it was Pleasure Shared who forged into the lead before the second last and held on by a neck at the line.

The Feltham Chase at Kempton over Christmas looks a likely target while his victory yesterday will warrant an entry for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham.

As Hennessy Gold Cup trials go, the three-runner Dunley Chase was hardly the most informative contest. Nicholson saddled two, including Billygoat Gruff, but was kept out of the winner's enclosure by the Paul Nicholls-trained Cherrynut.

Despite the defeat, Nicholson said he was delighted. "Neither of my horses wants to be in front too long. Tony McCoy [on Cherrynut] was not going to make the running so we had to. The Hennessy is still the target for Billygoat Gruff." Coral keeps him at 8-1 third favourite for the Newbury chase.

JULIAN HERBERT



Pleasure Shared, ridden by Maude, clears the last fence on the way to winning the valuable Worcester Novices' Chase yesterday

Nap: POTTER'S GALE
(3.20 Towcester)
Next best: Fortunes Course
(3.50 Towcester)

THUNDERER

1.20 Cross Talk
1.50 Celtic Silver
2.20 Witney-De-Bergerac
2.50 Thinking Twice
3.20 Potter's Gale
3.50 Fortunes Course

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.20 FLURRY KNOX SELLING HURDLE (£2,115: 2m) (11 runners)

101 00/10P- TAMANDU 16F (CD,G) (R Short) C James 6-11-8 ... Mr E James 83
102 — CROSS TALK 15F (Ellis Racing Club) N Tinkler 4-10-12 ... J Osborne —
103 013P-P JUST FOR A REASON 19 (D,G) (B Jackson) B Jackson 4-10-12 ... W Marston [illegible]
104 MASTER OPEX 787F (A Hawes) A Hawes 4-10-12 ... W Gookins (7) —
105 2-4063 MY HAVANNAH 14 (G) (J Jones) J Jones 5-10-12 ... Miss E J Jones (7) 87
106 00-P OLDEN DAYS 19 (The Sandbury Syndicate) C Thornton 4-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald —
107 P-2 TOMAL 30 (The Tally Partnership) R Ingram 4-10-12 ... A Maguire 97
108 WILLY STAR 18F (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 ... R Guest —
109 0-0 AUTUMN FLAME 56 (M Jephson) D Bowen 5-10-7 ... M Brennan —
110 BROWN EYED GIRL 49F [illegible] 4-10-7 ... C Llewellyn —
111 694-0 DERRYBELLE 15F [illegible] D Williams 5-10-7 ... M Clarke —

BETTING: 9-4 Tomal, 100-30 Cross Talk, 7-2 Willy Star, 8-1 Tamandu, 10-1 My Havannah, 14-1 Brown Eyed Girl, 16-1 others

1995: SEE YOU ALWAYS 5-11-2 W McFarland (25-1) G Charles-Jones 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

TAMANDU beat Barrybon 2½l in 15-runner selling novice hurdle over course and distance (good). CROSS TALK beat Bobby's Dream 3l in 11-runner [illegible] at Yarmouth (1m 6f, good) with DERRYBELLE (2lb worse off) 25l 10th. JUST FOR A REASON 8l 3rd of 9 to Rush's Pet in selling hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). MY HAVANNAH 21l 3rd of 11 to Severn Gale in selling hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good). TOMAL 14l 2nd of 5 to Young Radical in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). DERRYBELLE 5¾l 4th of 18 to Wayward Lady in National Hunt Flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good).
Selection: TAMANDU

1.50 TIFFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,738: 3m 1f) (5 runners)

201 115436- NICKLUP 209 (C,F,G,S) (Lord Cadogan) T Forster 9-11-10 ... A Thornton 93
202 021121 DRUMCULLEN 8 (C,D,F,G) [illegible] 7-11-7 (6ex) ... Mr R Wakley (7) 86
203 223264- BALLYEA BOY 215 (D Barry) D Nicholson 6-11-6 ... A Maguire —
204 453P-32 CELTIC SILVER 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-10-12 ... R Guest 98
205 P6730-4 ARDCRONEY CHIEF 13 (C,G,S) (W Dean) D Gandolfo 10-10-8 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]

BETTING: 9-4 Drumcullen, 3-1 Ballyea Boy, 4-1 Nicklup, 9-2 Celtic Silver, 5-1 Ardcroney Chief.

1995: OVER THE STREAM 9-11-11 T J Murphy (2-1) K Bailey 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

NICKLUP neck and 1½l 3rd of 7 to [illegible] in handicap chase over course and distance (good). DRUMCULLEN beat Paper Star 8l in 7-runner handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good). BALLYEA BOY 10l 4th of 15 to [illegible] in conditional handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft). CELTIC SILVER ½l 2nd of 9 to Royal Vacation in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 6f 110yd, good to firm). ARDCRONEY CHIEF 15¾l 4th of 14 to [illegible] in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: NICKLUP

2.20 KEYLINE BUILDERS MERCHANTS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,303: 2m) (8 runners)

301 4221-41 RANGITIKEI 10 (G) (Mrs J Mann) C Mann 5-12-0 ... R Dunwoody 94
302 00-3 WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 16F (BF) (E Haughton) J Mann 4-11-7 ... W McFarland 88
303 B8110-0 SHERS DELIGHT 188 (CD,F,G) [illegible] D Brennan 6-11-5 ... M Brennan 98
304 P02-P32 RED LIGHT 9 (V) [illegible] J Jenkins 4-10-13 ... R T Egan (7) [illegible]
305 00-F4 ERNEST WILLIAM 12 (G) [illegible] 4-10-6 ... X Gaule (3) 90
306 000P-P BOLD CHARLIE 10 [illegible] S Mellor 4-10-8 ... N Mann —
307 4/8100- SWING LUCKY 171 (CD,F) (A Blackmore) A Blackmore 11-10-0 ... D Skyrme —
308 30-6523 MR POPPLETON 9 [illegible] R Brotherton 7-10-0 ... J Osborne 86

Long handicap: Swing Lucky 9-11, Mr Poppleton 9-9

BETTING: 6-4 Rangitikei, 9-2 Witney-de-Bergerac, 5-1 Red Light, 6-1 Ernest William, 8-1 Shers Delight, Mr Poppleton, 16-1 others

1995: MILL O'THE RAGS 6-10-11 J F Titley (100-30) Mrs D Haine 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

RANGITIKEI beat Pip's Dream 8l in 17-runner maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 12l and neck 3rd of 8 to Wottashambles in maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). SHERS DELIGHT beat [illegible] 8l in 6-runner novices handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m 7f 110yd, good). RED LIGHT neck 2nd of 4 to Portscatho in novices handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm) with MR POPPLETON (2lb worse off) 11l 3rd. ERNEST WILLIAM 38l 4th of 6 to Cyprus Queen in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). MR POPPLETON 10l 2nd of 8 to Raven's Roost in novices handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to firm).
Selection: RANGITIKEI (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	20	49	40.8	A Maguire	17	66	25.8
C Brooks	7	25	28.0	Martin Brennan	22	95	23.2
O Brennan	28	126	22.3	R Dunwoody	13	62	21.0
D Gandolfo	7	35	20.0	G Bradley	5	26	19.2
J Gifford	10	53	18.9	W Marston	10	60	16.7

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.50 IRISH R M NOVICES CHASE (£3,105: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

401 /PFF3-5 COPPER CABLE 9 (Lady Scott) C Smith 9-11-3 ... M Ranger —
402 0P03-R KEY TO MOYADE 8 (Mrs L Harper) M Wilkinson 6-11-3 ... I Lawrence —
403 2311-15 ROLFE 116 (B,BF,F,G) (S Clarke) D Nicholson 6-11-3 ... A Maguire —
404 831005- THINKING TWICE 204 (F,G,S) (E McGrath) N Henderson 7-11-3 ... M A Fitzgerald —
405 00P0P-0 UPHAM RASCAL 10 (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 5-11-3 ... D Fort (3) —
406 30/F0UR- SECOND CALL 259 (F,S) (J Day) T Forster 7-10-12 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]

BETTING: 6-4 Thinking Twice, 5-2 Rolfe, 4-1 Second Call, 8-1 Upham Rascal, 12-1 Copper Cable, 14-1 Key To Moyade

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

COPPER CABLE 40l 5th of 8 to Bogs'l Or Bust in a novice chase at Warwick (2m, good to firm). KEY TO MOYADE 7¾l 3rd of 7 to Dipas in a novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm). ROLFE 11¾l 5th of 9 to Star Market in a handicap hurdle at Stafford (2m 110yd, good to firm). THINKING TWICE 21l 5th of 10 to Cockney Lad in the grade B Ballymore Properties / People In Need European Breeders Fund Handicap Hurdle at Punchestown (2m, soft). SECOND CALL, poor jumper of fences, 1¼l 2nd to Andre Laval in novice chase at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good).
Selection: KEY TO MOYADE

3.20 MOONLIGHTER MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,408: 2m) (12 runners)

501 0F3-0 BEL-DE-MOOR 19 (Chestnut Tree Partners) M Muggeridge 4-10-7 ... C Llewellyn —
502 00/ BRIDGE DELIGHT 651 (Hopeful Racing) M Wilkinson 7-10-7 ... D C O'Connor (7) —
503 1416/0- DARK PHOENIX 336 (G) (Mrs P Brennan) O Brennan 6-10-7 ... M Brennan —
504 0/PF0- LADY HIGH SHERIFF 252 (Mrs M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 6-10-7 ... S Wynne —
505 22P4 MARLOUSION 62 (Mrs E Mead) C Brooks 4-10-7 ... G Bradley —
506 232- MAYLIN MAGIC 244 (F Lucraft) T Casey 5-10-7 ... R Dunwoody —
507 00F0- MISS MYLETTE 201 (B & E Partners) D Wintle 5-10-7 ... R Bellamy —
508 004- MOOR HALL LADY 187 (R Brackhouse) N Babbage 5-10-7 ... W Marston —
509 213-2 POTTER'S GALE 9 (BF,F) (J Potter) D Nicholson 5-10-7 ... A Maguire —
510 533- RIVER BAY 194 (Rivermoor Racing) Miss H Knight 5-10-7 ... — —
511 33- ROYAL RULER 187 (C Francis) J Gifford 5-10-7 ... P Hide —
512 5300- SEPTEMBER BREEZE 187 (T Tate) T Tate 5-10-7 ... R Garritty —

BETTING: 7-4 Potter's Gale, 4-1 Royal Ruler, 5-1 Maylin Magic, 6-1 River Bay, 8-1 Marlousion, 16-1 Lady High Sheriff, September Breeze, 20-1 others.

1995: MISS CASHTAL 4-10-12 S McNeill (7-2) D Thom 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEL-DE-MOOR 21l 3rd of 9 to Brazsley May in National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, firm). DARK PHOENIX beat Cool As A Cucumber 1¾l in 14-runner National Hunt Flat race at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good) in April 1995. MARLOUSION 16¾l 4th of 9 to Wottashambles in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to firm). MAYLIN MAGIC 17l 2nd of 11 to Boardroom Shuffle in National Hunt Flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). MOOR HALL LADY 6¾l 4th of 11 to Radiash in National Hunt Flat race at Warwick (2m, firm). POTTER'S GALE 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Cuzaduff Moll in National Hunt Flat race at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). RIVER BAY 4¾l 3rd of 16 to Ponsied Remark in National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good). ROYAL RULER 4l and head 3rd of 21 to Regal Gem in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm) with SEPTEMBER BREEZE 25l 11th.
Selection: POTTER'S GALE (nap)

3.50 WICKEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,952: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

601 1133FP- BRAES OF MAR 197 (F,G,S) (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 6-12-0 ... T C Murphy (7) 93
602 56132-2 FORTUNES COURSE 14 (G,S) (Mrs A Garrett) J King 7-11-6 ... Mr A Wintle (7) 98
603 1-21215 CLEAN EDGE 19 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Adams) J Mackie 4-11-0 ... E Husband (4) [illegible]
604 5512P0- PYRAMIS PRINCE 201 (S) (J Wayte) J Wayte 6-10-12 ... A Maguire 95
605 33441-3 SILVER STANDARD 14 (B,S) (S Lugg) T Forster 6-10-9 ... S Wynne 95
606 21-236F LA MENORQUINA 9 (G) (Joe Acton) D Marks 6-10-6 ... J A McCarthy 95
607 26000-6 DAHLIA'S BEST 13 (G) (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 6-10-6 ... Gary Lyons 80
608 140 EUPHONIC 55F (F) (P Sharp) I Balding 6-10-1 ... J Osborne —
609 B/10005- MERLENA 236 (D,F) (S Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-10-0 ... N Rossiter (7) 94

Long handicap: Merlena 9-13

BETTING: 11-4 Silver Standard, 4-1 Fortunes Course, 5-1 Clean Edge, 7-1 Merlena, La Menorquina, 8-1 Braes of Mar, Euphonic, 12-1 others

1995: ATHERTON GREEN 5-11-5 A S Smith (4-5 fav) J Glover 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

FORTUNES COURSE ½l 2nd of 10 to Tara Bodge in handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good) with SILVER STANDARD (4lb better off) 16l 3rd. CLEAN EDGE beat Notable Exception 9l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). PYRAMIS PRINCE 9l 2nd of 9 to Bain-N-Son in handicap hurdle here (2m, firm). SILVER STANDARD beat Ramallah 5l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, good). LA MENORQUINA 6¾l 3rd of 5 to Wottashambles in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to firm). EUPHONIC 4¾l 4th of 14 to Mr Genealogy in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: FORTUNES COURSE

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
12.10 Miracle Kid. 12.40 Errant. 1.10 Perilous Plight. 1.40 Premier. 2.10 Opera Buff. 2.40 Just Loui. 3.10 Rawi. 3.40 *ARZANI* (nap).

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.40 Philistar. 3.40 *ARZANI* (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FAUCETS GROHE AQUA WATER MANAGEMENT CONTROL MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,934: 1m) (9 runners)

1 000 CHIEF PREDATOR 6 R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 9
2 0 MIRACLE KID 15 J Gosden 9-0 ... W Ryan 5
3 00 OAKEN WOOD 28 N Callaghan 9-0 ... S Whitworth 7
4 00 OLIVER 17 R Armstrong 9-0 ... G Carter 6
5 04 PROTOCOL 16 J Hills 9-0 ... D Holland 2
6 60 THE ROUNDSILLS 21 R Johnson Houghton 9-0 ... A McGlone 3
7 5006 ALMERIJAM 72 J White 8-9 ... S Drowne 8
8 0 DEAR DRUE 20 C Brittain 8-9 ... M Roberts 4
9 50 OLD COLONY 36 P Cole 8-9 ... J Bosley (7) 1

2-1 Protocol, 5-1 Old Colony, 6-1 Chief Predator, Oliver, Almerijam, 7-1 The Roundsills, Oaken Wood, 8-1 others

12.40 FAUCETS GROHE WATER TECHNOLOGY HANDICAP (Div I: £2,548: 1m 2f) (8)

1 2000 TRIBAL PEACE 185 (CD,G,S) B Gubby 4-9-13 ... J Stack 6
2 0000 BLAZE OF SONG 26 (D,G,S) R Hannon 4-9-13 ... Dane O'Neill 8
3 6003 ERRANT 152 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 4-9-11 ... J Quinn 1
4 5130 PHILISTAR 89 (CD,G) J Eustace 3-9-11 ... T Sprake 2
5 3200 ROWLANDSONS CHARM 24 (V,C,G) Miss B Sanders 3-9-0 ... S Sanders 4
6 0004 MUJTAHIDA 89 R Armstrong 3-8-7 ... G Carter 3
7 0000 AMBASSADORI 37 C Brittain 3-8-6 ... M Roberts 5
8 0040 ALAKHLUKI 16 (BF) G Lewis 3-7-10 ... N Adams 7

5-2 Blaze Of Song, 3-1 Errant, 6-1 Philistar, Mujtahida, 7-1 Alakhluki, 8-1 Rowlandsons Charm, 10-1 others.

1.10 FAUCETS GROHEDAL WASHROOM & FLUSHING EQUIPMENT APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,221: 7f) (14)

1 1146 SPEEDY CLASSIC 40 (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-13 ... S Drowne 7
2 0061 SMITHEREENS 7 (CD,G) P Walwyn 3-9-7 (7ex) ... S Copp (5) 5
3 0081 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 7 (E,CD,G) S Dow 3-9-7 (7ex) ... Dane O'Neill 1
4 3503 PERILOUS PLIGHT 7 (CD,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 5-9-6 ... P Fessey (3) 2
5 0043 NO MONKEY NUTS 12 (F,G) J Berry 3-9-5 ... Iona Wands (5) 4
6 0100 FAITH ALONE 33 (CD,F,G) C Wall 3-9-5 ... P Clarke (7) 9
7 1030 DON PEPE 15 (D,F,G) R Boss 5-9-3 ... R Mullen (5) 14
8 2043 STATISTICIAN 3 (B,F) John Berry 4-9-0 ... Amy Quirk (7) 6
9 3300 SHONTAINE 7 (D,F,G) M Johnston 3-9-0 ... K Sked (5) 11
10 3015 MR CUBE 28J (B,C,D,F,G) J Bradley 6-8-10 ... Sophie Mitchell (3) 8
11 0002 SCATHEBURY 24 (V,D,F,G) K Burke 3-8-8 ... Emily Joyce (7) 12
12 6000 DISTANT DYNASTY 7 (C,G,S) B Pearce 6-8-4 ... D Salt (7) 13
13 6404 SAPPHIRE SON 48 (C,D,G) P Clarke 4-8-1 ... T Field (7) 10
14 1600 DARK MENACE 56 (F) E Wheeler 4-8-1 ... D McCabe 3

5-1 Smithereens, 6-1 Speedy Classic, Perilous Plight, 8-1 Lancashire Legend, 10-1 No Monkey Nuts, Statistician, Sapphire Son.

1.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FAUCETS GROHE AQUA WATER MANAGEMENT CONTROL MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,919: 1m) (9)

1 00 FREEDOM CHANCE 17 J Hills 9-0 ... D Holland 7
2 HAYES WAY T Mills 9-0 ... S Sanders 9
3 00 IL PRINCIPE 27 John Berry 9-0 ... T Williams 4
4 6050 PALISANDER 64 (F) S Dow 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 8
5 5 PREMIER 38 M Johnston 9-0 ... D McKeown 1
6 00 PURCHASING POWER 21 R Callaghan 9-0 ... S Whitworth 5
7 060 SERENADE 19 M Haynes 9-0 ... G Duffield 6
8 60 LOCHLASS 40 S Woods 8-9 ... D Biggs 2
9 0 MACARONI BEACH 22 C Brittain 8-9 ... M Roberts 3

9-4 Premier, 9-2 Macaroni Beach, Palisander, 5-1 Freedom Chance, 7-1 others.

2.10 FAUCETS GROHEART PERFECT WATER FITTINGS CONDITIONS STAKES (£3,485: 1m 4f) (9)

1 0430 OPERA BUFF 152 (CD,F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-2 ... S Sanders 8
2 0001 PERSIAN CONQUEST 7 (B,CD,G) R Ingram 4-9-2 ... A McGlone 1
3 2210 POLAR CHAMP 44 (B,F) S Woods 3-9-1 ... W Ryan 9
4 6360 PRINCE KINSKY 14 (C,G) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-13 ... D Harrison 6
5 00 BIGWIG 87 A Moore 3-8-10 ... Candy Morris 5
6 3551 SMILIN N WISHIN 36 (G) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-10 ... G Duffield 7
7 6350 STEAMROLLER STANLY 36 (F) C Cyzer 3-8-10 ... G Carter 2
8 5500 MORE THAN YOU KNOW 34 (F) K Burke 3-8-5 ... J Quinn 4
9 05 PATIALA 6 R Armstrong 3-8-5 ... J Stack 3

9-4 Smilin N Wishin, 3-1 Polar Champ, 4-1 Opera Buff, 5-1 Prince Kinsky, 6-1 Steamroller Stanly, 7-1 Persian Conquest, 8-1 others

2.40 FAUCETS FOR GROHE FROM STOCK WHEN YOU NEED IT CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,588: 6f) (9)

1 0540 *MASTERSTROKE 2 (D,F) B Meehan 9-3* ... *M Tebbutt 7*
2 2500 LAST CHANCE 13 (F) C Allen 8-11 ... G Carter 5
3 2562 JUST LOUI 26 (G) W Turner 8-9 ... T Sprake 3
4 0030 MAGYAR TITOK 24 Bob Jones 8-9 ... F Norton 9
5 3165 COME TOO MAMMA'S 7 (G) J Berry 8-6 ... P Fessey (5) 8
6 5650 MISTY CAY 43 (E,D,F,G) S Dow 8-6 ... S Sanders 6
7 0003 JILLY WOO 24 (B) D Elsworth 8-2 ... Dane O'Neill 4
8 *SHE'S ELECTRIC J Bridger 8-0* ... *R Mullen (7) 1*
9 0604 SILENT VALLEY 3 (B) B Meehan 7-10 ... J Quinn 2

5-2 Just Loui, 3-1 Come Too Mamma's, 7-2 Last Chance, 6-1 Silent Valley, 8-1 Jilly Woo, Masterstroke, 10-1 others

3.10 FAUCETS GROHETEC PULSOMAT SURF RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (£2,600: 6f) (13)

1 *0000 INAMINIT 12 H Collingridge 3-9-0* ... J Quinn 4
2 -000 LOGIE PERT LAD 63 J Bridger 4-9-0 ... R Mullen (7) 8
3 4630 RAWI 54 (BF) Miss G Kelleway 3-9-0 ... G Duffield 1
4 3003 SCHOOL BOY 3 T Naughton 3-9-0 ... D Holland 9
5 0000 AVANT HUIT 57 Mrs N Macauley 4-8-11 ... C Teague (5) 3
6 0500 BARBRALLEN 23J Mrs L Jewell 4-8-11 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) 2
7 00-0 EMEI SHAN 54 W G M Turner 3-8-11 ... D McGaffin (7) 7
8 3400 KELLAIRE GIRL 65 A Moore 4-8-11 ... A Whelan (3) 13
9 6005 LAWSIMINA 10 Miss J Craze 3-8-11 ... S Drowne 6
10 5433 MADRINA 10 (BF) J Berry 3-8-11 ... P Fessey (5) 5
11 6246 MARASCHINO 17 B Meehan 3-8-11 ... M Tebbutt 11
12 *6050 MYSTERY MATTHIAS 7 (V) Miss B Sanders 3-8-11* ... S Sanders 10
13 0300 TIME FOR TEA 48 C Cyzer 3-8-11 ... G Carter 12

5-2 Madrina, 3-1 Rawi, 4-1 Time For Tea, 6-1 School Boy, 8-1 Maraschino, 10-1 Mystery Matthias, Lawsimina, 14-1 others

3.40 FAUCETS GROHE WATER TECHNOLOGY HANDICAP (Div II: £2,546: 1m 2f) (8)

1 1000 TORMOUNT 24 (C,G) Lord Huntingdon 3-9-11 ... D Harrison 5
2 1004 OUR EDDIE 7 (V,CD,G) B Gubby 7-9-7 ... D Holland 6
3 4000 RENATA'S PRINCE 30 (F) K Bone 3-9-6 ... S Sanders 8
4 0620 ABSOLUTELYSTUNNING 13 (D,F) Mrs B Waring 3-8-12 ... W Ryan 1
5 0001 ARZANI 7 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 5-8-11 (6ex) ... R Mullen (7) 7
6 6540 ONE IN THE EYE 13 J Poulton 3-8-9 ... S Drowne 3
7 4020 ALFAYZA 13 (F) J Bethell 3-7-13 ... T Williams 4
8 5000 PARONOMASIA 16 J L Harris 4-7-10 ... J Quinn 2

7-4 Arzani, 9-2 Tormount, 5-1 Our Eddie, Alfayza, 6-1 Absolutelystunning, 8-1 One In The Eye, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 19 winners from 83 runners, 22.9%; J Berry, 33 from 152, 21.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 49 from 225, 21.8%; Bob Jones, 7 from 37, 18.9%; J Hills, 20 from 114, 17.5%; R Armstrong, 16 from 92, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 32 winners from 183 rides, 17.5%; D Holland, 23 from 136, 16.9%; M Roberts, 18 from 119, 15.1%; G Duffield, 29 from 237, 12.2%; G Carter, 25 from 222, 11.3%; J Stack, 10 from 93, 11.1%.

☐ Aerion, considered by Oliver Sherwood to be one of his most exciting prospects, made an impressive jumping debut in the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle at Newbury yesterday, beating Tower Street by a comfortable 3½ lengths.

TAUNTON

THUNDERER
1.00 Fleur De Tal. 1.30 Chickabiddy. 2.00 Little Hooligan. 2.30 Questan. 3.00 Dragonmist. 3.30 The *Blue Boy*. 4.00 Little Jake.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 ROSENCRANTZ.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.00 SOUTH-WEST AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,942: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 421- FEARLESS WONDER 88F (B,S) D Bassett 5-12-0 ... Miss K Di Marte (7) 94
2 522- NOVA RUN 194 (G) R Henderson 7-11-6 ... C Vigors (5) 92
3 F26/ ALWAYS REMEMBER 694 (S) P Hobbs 9-11-5 ... R Widger (7) —
4 -320 FLEUR DE TAL 22 (F,G) W G M Turner 5-11-2 ... G Shenkin (7) 93
5 -431 SEVERN GALE 14 (G,S) J Allen 6-10-9 ... N Bradley (7) 90
6 45-3 ZIP YOUR LIP 8 Mrs P Townsley 6-10-8 ... Miss C Townsley (7) 85
7 2214 SOUTHERN RIDGE 28 (G) R Frost 5-10-4 ... A Holdsworth (7) [illegible]
8 F43- GLEN MIRAGE 191 (CD,F,G,S) M Coombe 11-10-3 ... Miss M Coombe (7) 98
9 -605 SAN DIEGO CHARGER 5 (F) A Barrow 5-10-1 ... O McPhail (7) 92
10 2332 ZINGIBAR 13 (S) J Bradley 4-10-0 ... R Thornton (7) 90
11 /50- ALBERT 351 P Evans 6-10-0 ... Miss C Evans (7) 80

3-1 Nova Run, 4-1 Always Remember, 6-1 Fleur De Tal, Southern Ridge, 7-1 others.

1.30 WSM MERCEDES BENZ ACTROS CHASE (Novices handicap: £2,918: 2m 3f) (5)

1 2211 NORDIC VALLEY 43 (F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-10 ... A P McCoy 95
2 -340 LORD NITROGEN 6 E Llewellyn 6-11-3 ... Mr J L Llewellyn [illegible]
3 3022 CHICKABIDDY 22 (BF,F,G) G Edwards 8-11-0 ... R Johnson 98
4 /60- OXFORD QUILL 411 (S) R Curtis 9-10-8 ... D Morris —
5 55-F ASHMEAD RAMBLER 18 P Hobbs 6-10-3 ... C Maude —

11-10 Nordic Valley, 2-1 Chickabiddy, 4-1 Ashmead Rambler, 5-1 others.

2.00 ORCHARD PORTMAN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,005: 2m 1f) (10)

1 2345 LITTLE HOOLIGAN 9 (D,F,G) [illegible] ... R Johnson 98
2 0735 [illegible] ... [illegible] 95
3 0085 [illegible] ... [illegible] (7) 93
4 3-116 [illegible] ... [illegible] Leahy [illegible]
5 2331 [illegible] ... [illegible] (3) 96
6 P-3 [illegible] ... [illegible] Murphy 89
7 F-PR [illegible] ... [illegible] Powell —
8 58 [illegible] ... A P McCoy —
9 SCOR [illegible] ... [illegible] (7) 98
10 60 [illegible] ... [illegible] Russel —

7-4 [illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 21 winners from 81 runners, 25.9%; [illegible], 3 from 13, 23.1%; M Pipe, 35 from 159, 22.0%; [illegible] 19%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 13 winners from 66 rides, 19.7%; [illegible]

2.30 WEATHERBYS STATISTICAL RECORD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,358: 2m 1f) (14)

1 01-1 ROSENCRANTZ 18 (F) Miss V Williams 4-11-12 ... N Williamson [illegible]
2 314P ATH CHEANNAITHE 10 (CD,F) J Neville 4-11-5 ... R Johnson 95
3 P6-1 PORTSCATHO 9 (B,F) A James 4-11-5 ... S McNeill 91
4 ADONISIS 19F D Sherwood 4-10-12 ... A Procter —
5 -063 ALL SEWN UP 15 R Baker 4-10-12 ... B Powell 75
6 060- MAGIC WIZARD 197 N Hawke 5-10-12 ... C Maude 95
7 NIGELS CHOICE 206F A Smith 4-10-12 ... F Jousset —
8 3/ NORDANCE PRINCE 755 Miss G M Fitz 5-10-12 ... D Bridgwater —
9 *3- OUT ON A PROMISE 173F N Warren 4-10-12* ... D Fitzgerald (7) 55
10 QUESTAN 566F (B) M Pipe 4-10-12 ... A P McCoy —
11 0 KLOSTERS 51 P Hedges 4-10-7 ... T Dascombe (3) —
12 P MINNEOLA 31 A Barrow 4-10-7 ... Mr R Thornton (7) —
13 F-66 SABOTEUSE 18 J Poulton 4-10-7 ... T J Murphy 72
14 4 TRAUMA 29 W G M Turner 4-10-7 ... N Willmington (7) —

6-4 Rosencrantz, 5-1 Nordance Prince, 6-1 Questan, 7-1 Portscatho, Out On A Promise, 8-1 Ath Cheannaithe, 10-1 Adonisis, 20-1 others

3.00 WSM MERCEDES BENZ VITO NOVICES HURDLE (£2,801: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 -234 COPPER COIL 9 W G M Turner 6-12-0 ... J Power (7) [illegible]
2 0 DUKES CASTLE 8 R Frost 5-10-12 ... J Frost —
3 540- FRANK NAYLAR 238 P Bowen 5-10-12 ... M Griffiths (7) —
4 45- HONEY MOUNT 308 N Baker 5-10-12 ... N Williamson 97
5 5-4P MU-TADIL 8 R Baker 4-10-12 ... B Powell —
6 5322 DRAGONMIST 6 (H,BF) D Burchell 6-10-7 ... D J Burchell 94
7 2452 GALATASORI JANE 35 P Nicholls 6-10-7 ... A P McCoy 92
8 44P0 KATHARINE'S SONG 9 D Wyatt 6-10-7 ... B Fenton —
9 PRFP LAURA LYE 14 B De Haan 6-10-7 ... J Railton —

6-4 Galatasori Jane, 9-2 Copper Coil, 6-1 Honey Mount, 8-1 Frank Naylar, Dragonmist, 10-1 Dukes Castle, 12-1 others.

3.30 WSM MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER CHASE (Handicap: £2,601: 3m) (6)

1 *3141 THE BLUE BOY 26 (B,CD,F,G,S) P Bowen 8-11-10* ... N Williamson 99
2 F210 HERBERT BUCHANAN 5 (C,F,G) P Nicholls 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
3 1033 HENLEY WOOD 29 (C,F,G,S) P Hobbs 11-11-6 ... L Harvey 97
4 4-03 LA MEZERAY 15 (F,G,S) Mrs J Harvey 8-10-2 ... D Leahy (3) 96
5 05-U GALLIC GIRL 19 C Popham 6-10-0 ... T Dascombe (3) —
6 034- RHOMAN FUN 220 (G) R Buckler 7-10-0 ... B Powell 93

2-1 The Blue Boy, 5-2 Herbert Buchanan, 3-1 Henley Wood, 6-1 La Mezeray, 10-1 Rhoman Fun, 16-1 Gallic Girl

4.00 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,318: 2m 1f) (10)

1 0- AQUA AMBER 216 J Bosley 4-11-4 ... B Fenton —
2 00- BOOZYS DREAM 192 [illegible] 5-11-4 ... S Burrough —
3 DUNNICKS TOWN F G Tucker 4-11-4 ... G Upton —
4 KING OF THE BLUES J King 4-11-4 ... T J Murphy —
5 LITTLE JAKE N Baker 5-11-4 ... R Johnson —
6 MIDAS N Babbage 5-11-4 ... A P McCoy —
7 SCORING PEDIGREE J M Bradley 5-11-4 ... S Curran —
8 0- COUNTESS MILLIE 257 Mrs P Whitehead 4-10-13 ... [illegible] —
9 500 *HALAM BELL 5 W G M Turner 4-10-13* ... *P Henley* —
10 0 MISS NIGHT OWL 6 F Frost 5-10-13 ... J Frost —

9-4 Little Jake, 7-2 King Of The Blues, 5-1 Scoring Pedigree, 6-1 Midas, 8-1 Miss Night Owl, 14-1 Halam Bell, 16-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 2.10 Polar Champ. Taunton: 1.00 Fearless Wonder, 3.00 Saboteuse, 2.30 Questan

Worcester

Going: good

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Mighty Moss (Mr F Hutsby, 13-8 fav); 2, Denham Hill (50-1); 3, Hydemilla (50-1). 14 ran. 11l, 20l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £9.10, £7.90. DF: £60.90. Trio: not won (pool of £274.70 carried forward to 2.00 at Taunton today). CSF: £66.14.

1.30 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Cherrynut (A P McCoy, 3-1); 2, Billygoat Gruff (8-11 fav); 3, [illegible] Lucifer (33-1). 3 ran. 2½l, 4l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.20. DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.27.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Tamain (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, Mouse Bird (5-2 fav); 3, Chicodari (9-2). 8 ran. 3l, 1l. T Forster. Tote: £5.30; £1.90, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £6.30. CSF: £12.86. Tricast: £34.47.

2.30 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Pleasure Shared (C Maude, 9-2); 2, Around The Gale (11-4 fav); 3, Mony-Skip (16-1). 10 ran. NR: Banntown Bill. Nk, 8l. P Hobbs. Tote: £5.30; £1.90, £1.40, £2.40. DF: £8.40. Trio: £32.60. CSF: £15.86.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Indrapura (A P McCoy, 9-4 fav); 2, Lets Be Frank (11-2); 3, Time Leader (25-1). 11 ran. 1¾l, 8l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.50, £5.30. DF: £6.90. Trio: £136.20. CSF: £14.22. Tricast: £212.97.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Porphyrios (C Llewellyn, 8-1); 2, Reeshloch (9-1); 3, Thats The Life (25-1). Ambassador Royale, Good For A Laugh, The Minster 11-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. 1½l, 10l. K Bailey. Tote: £9.40; £2.10, £3.90, £8.90. DF: £28.30. Trio: £277.00 (part won; pool of £351.14 carried forward to 2.00 at Taunton today). CSF: £71.71. Tricast: £1,577.55.

4.00 (2m hdle) 1, Boots Madden (R Johnson, 7-2 fav); 2, Another Cockpit (12-1); 3, Rachel Louise (12-1). 21 ran. NR: Gower-Slave. 1½l, 3l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £3.80; £1.70, £7.10, £2.90. DF: £40.20. Trio: £183.30 (part won; pool of £80.05 carried forward to 2.00 at Taunton today). CSF: £45.88.

Jackpot: £13,240.70.

Placepot: £352.80.

Quadpot: £38.40.

Kelso

Going: good

1.10 (2m 1f ch) 1, Monymoss (R Garritty, 13-8 fav); 2, Ballyline (15-8); 3, Le Denstan (7-2). 7 ran. 1½l, 2½l. M Hammond. Tote: £2.50; £2.30, £1.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.77.

1.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Del Piero (R Garritty, 6-1); 2, Kuramanya Girl (7-1); 3, Mithraic (2-1 fav). 10 ran. Nk, 6l. M Hammond. Tote: £7.60; £1.90, £2.40, £1.50. DF: £17.40. Trio: £18.50. CSF: £45.24.

2.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, Trickle Lad (N Williamson, 5-2 fav); 2, Tighter Budget (7-2); 3, Tough Test (7-2). 6 ran. NR: Springhill Quay. 1½l, sh hd. F Murphy. Tote: £2.60; £1.40, £1.60. DF: £3.60. CSF: £10.39.

2.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Adamatic (L Wyer, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Stash The Cash (3-1); 3, Field Of Vision (5-2 jt-fav). 5 ran. 1l, 2½l. R Allan. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.62.

3.10 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, Bas De Laine (R Garritty, 3-1); 2, Fiveleigh Builds (7-1); 3, Dark Oak (6-1). Easymorning Light 2-1 fav. 5 ran. 8l, 5l. M Hammond. Tote: £3.80; £1.30, £5.00. DF: £12.00. CSF: £19.89.

3.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Clever Boy (L Wyer, 10-1); 2, Kasirama (11-2); 3, Cash Box (12-1). Tweedswood 5-2 fav. 9 ran. ¾l, hd. J Curtis. Tote: £14.60; £2.20, £2.20, £1.70. DF: £118.00. Trio: £217.60 (part won; pool of £131.82 carried forward to 2.00 at Taunton today). CSF: £64.19. Tricast: £631.47.

Placepot: £128.00. Quadpot: £31.20.

Newbury

Going: good

1.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Aerion (J Osborne, 8-11 fav); 2, Tower Street (20-1); 3, Ever Blessed (13-2). 17 ran. NR: Our Pete. 3½l, nk. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.70; £1.30, £4.50, £1.80. DF: £33.70. Trio: £70.60. CSF: £19.45.

1.50 (3m ch) 1, Goldenswift (B Fenton, 2-1 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Lottery Ticket (7-1); 3, Lucky Dollar (13-2). 7 ran. NR: Express Travel. 2½l, 3l. G Balding. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £3.30. DF: £11.50. CSF: £14.88. Tricast: £68.45.

2.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Mandys Mantino (P Hide, Evens fav); 2, Little Buck (12-1); 3, Djais (10-1). 4 ran. NR: Karshi. 4l, 5l. J Gifford. Tote: £1.70; £1.90. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.87.

2.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, Redeemyourself (P Hide, 6-4 fav); 2, Madison County (9-4); 3, Court Master (12-1). 7 ran. 12l, 10l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.72.

3.20 (2m 1f ch) 1, Super Tactics (P Henley, 2-1); 2, Merry Panto (6-4 fav); 3, Northern Saddler (4-1). 5 ran. 1½l, 15l. R Alner. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.27.

3.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Queen's Award (M Griffiths, 9-4 fav); 2, Spacrage Gold (6-1); 3, Percy Thrower (5-1). 9 ran. 4l, hd. R Buckler. Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £14.10. Trio: £18.00. CSF: £15.78. Tricast: £57.05.

Placepot: £5.40. Quadpot: £4.10.

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SWIMMING

Popov and coach will pool plans for 2000

By Craig Lord

ALEKSANDR Popov, the Olympic champion at 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle, will return to training next week, almost three months after undergoing ten hours of emergency surgery for serious stab wounds, suffered during an argument on a street in Moscow.

However, on the eve of Popov's first public statement since the incident, Gennadi Touretski, his coach and mentor, has cautioned against expectations of a "miraculous recovery" of the kind of form that, in Atlanta, helped Popov, the world record-holder, to retain the Olympic 100 metres title.

Speaking from the Australian Institute for Sport, in Canberra, where he is head coach, Touretski said: "The biggest injury now is the mental one. It's going to take time to understand how he feels after this tragedy. His supremacy is his physical excellence; suddenly, he was disabled and the feelings of being physically excellent are stopped. My concern is that such a mental shock will take a long time to heal."

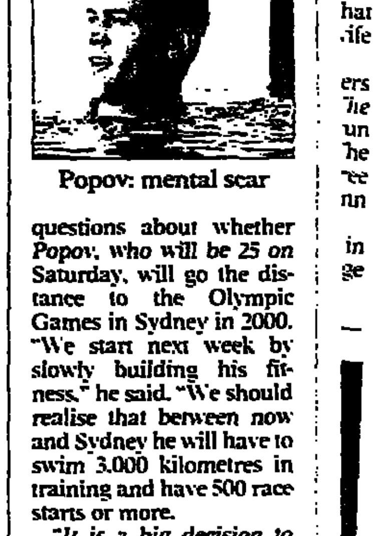
Touretski said that he had been inundated by questions about whether Popov, who will be 25 on Saturday, will go the distance to the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. "We start next week by slowly building his fitness," he said. "We should realise that between now and Sydney he will have to swim 3,000 kilometres in training and have 500 race starts or more.

"It is a big decision to accept that philosophy and it is something that Alex and myself will talk about over the next months. The decision is his and mine. If I don't agree that he is capable, I will tell him."

Touretski, however, was optimistic about prospects for Popov, who returned to Australia on Monday. Speaking of an emotional reunion at the airport, Touretski said: "He presented me with his gold medal for the 100 metres and I almost slept with it under my pillow, it means that much."

Popov had spoken earlier this year about being afraid of returning to Russia because top sportsmen had been among the new wealthy of Russia to become the victims of violent crime because of "petty jealousy". However, Touretski dismissed suggestions that Popov's stabbing had been politically motivated and said that the swimmer had been treated "like a king" in Russia by most people.

"He has had the very best treatment," Touretski said. "Many in Russia believe it was an Azerbaijani who stabbed Alex, but it was an Azerbaijaini who performed the surgery to save him, too. Alex looks strong and maybe he can turn this to his advantage."



Popov: mental scar

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic v Rangers (8.0)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich Albion v Sheffield United (7.0). [illegible] Halesowen Town [illegible] (7.0)

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Charlton Athletic v Arsenal (7.30); Reading v Dulwich Hamlet (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: International match: England v China (at Bath)

ICE SKATING: British championships (at Guildford)

TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (at Telford)

FOOTBALL

Striking difference in profile of goalscoring greats

BRIAN GLANVILLE

When is a striker not a striker? When he's a centre forward. Fashions come and fashions go, yet if the entrepreneur, as one scholar put it, is the true hero of capitalism, then the centre forward remains the true hero of football — all the way from the immaculate G. O. Smith, at the turn of the century, to Alan Shearer, who saved England's face against Poland at Wembley last month.

Smith, a peerless Corinthian, would never have scored Shearer's first goal — he did not believe in heading the ball — but his name has run down the ages, together with such as Dixie Dean, Hughie Gallacher, Tommy Lawton and John Charles.

The striker, by comparison, is an upstart. We began to hear about him only after Brazil introduced 4-2-4 in the 1958 World Cup. In time, that became 4-3-3, 4-4-2 and even 4-5-1. The classic centre forward, monarch of the middle, served by his wingers' crosses, sometimes abetted by an attacking inside forward, was challenged by a new phenomenon. Sheer lack of numbers up front meant that the striker had to be a polymath, now holding up the ball, as target man, waiting for reinforcements from behind, now moving to find space on the flanks.

Gianluca Vialli, who came on to revive Chelsea in the second half at Leicester last month, scoring one goal, making two, is a striker. He emerged in Italy as an outside left, then moved into the middle where he can operate effectively with his back to goal, use his technique to make chances for his colleagues or strike himself.

Geoff Hurst, who scored a hat-trick for England in the World Cup final in 1966, had the strength, the heading ability, of the true centre forward, but, converted by West Ham United from left half to inside left, he was of the new rather than the old breed.

The big, battling centre forward, used profitably by Arsenal between the wars in the shape of Jack Lambert and Ted Drake, had his precursor in such as Sunny Jim Quinn of Celtic, famous for his dreadnought ways. "All the men Jimmy Quinn killed are living yet," a Scottish apologist said.

Centre forwards come in all shapes and sizes. When Jimmy Hogan, the Lancastrian coach, brought his Austrian wunderteam to play England at Chelsea in 1932, he took them the previous Saturday to watch Chelsea play Everton. Chelsea had Gallacher at centre forward, Everton had Dean, that stupendous header of the ball. The Austrians were appalled to see both teams consistently playing the ball down the middle to their respective centre forwards.

> 'Geoff Hurst was of the new rather than the old breed'

Among the Austrians sat Matthias Sindelar "The Man Of Paper", an almost ghostly figure, a centre forward who could drift like ectoplasm through a defence, before rolling the ball over the line.

Centre forwards such as Sindelar live as legends. When his contemporary, Silvio Piola, recently died, at the age of 83, Italian football went into mourning. The tall, muscular Piola scored 30 goals in 34 games for Italy, five of them in the World Cup finals in 1938 in France.

When Italy next won the World Cup, in Spain in 1982, it was thanks largely to the six goals scored by Paolo Rossi, much smaller than Piola, yet a real centre forward ever since he had been converted by Vicenza from a winger.

Two of the most influential players of past years have been centre forwards. Alfredo Di Stéfano, the Argentine who inspired Real Madrid to five European Cup wins in a row, was the incarnation of Total Football before it was ever invented, ubiquitous, the master of the through pass, a lethal finisher.

Johan Cruyff, icon of the Total Football played by Ajax and Holland, was just as predominant if not as robust a figure. And his heir was the remarkable Marco van Basten.

It was a big centre forward who won Germany the European championship last summer. Oliver Bierhoff, coming on as substitute in the final against the Czech Republic, scored twice.

The Germans have never had a greater idol than Uwe Seeler, who led their attack in the 1966 World Cup, his very name a war cry. The Germans loved that squat, resilient figure more than they ever did his prolific successor, Gerd Müller, for all his goals. "Germans love a fighter," a German once told me, "and Müller is not a fighter."

And strikers? Recently, albeit at the humble level of a Nationwide League third division game between Barnet and Torquay, I saw Garry Nelson, the Torquay United veteran and footballing author, give a template display of what strikers should do. Now in the middle, now out on the left, now out on the right. All things to all men, but never as glamorous as a centre forward: as Shearer, Weah, Romario, Batistuta, Ravanelli. The centre forward as football's eternal hero, how ever much fashions and terminology change.

After years of globe-trotting, Addison has established his managerial roots at Penydarren Park, Merthyr Tydfil

Addison alights at Costa del Merthyr

Russell Kempson on a well-travelled manager now heading for the Orient

FA CUP

Atlético Madrid were going well. They had recovered from a poor start to the season and needed only three points from their last three Spanish league matches to qualify for a place in the Uefa Cup. They had also beaten Barcelona to reach the semi-finals of the Spanish Cup and, though trailing 2-0 to Real Madrid after the first leg, still harboured hopes of defeating their great rivals.

It was then that Colin Addison, the Atlético manager, got the call. His presence was required by Jésus Gil y Gil, the club president. Perhaps it was to congratulate him on the team's impressive progress, Addison thought; perhaps it was to talk about a new contract. Or perhaps, considering Gil's notoriety for hiring and firing, it was the end.

He soon found out. Praise and personal finance were not on the agenda. After two months as assistant to Ron Atkinson and six months in charge, Addison was dismissed. The curse of Jésus Gil had struck again.

"I was surprised, of course I was, but then again I wasn't, what with his reputation," Addison said. "Jésus was such an unpredictable man, he wanted to win everything. He was sometimes charming, one of the boys almost, but would then criticise everyone and everything. You'd be talking or eating with him, all as nice as pie, and then you'd pick up the papers the next day and could barely believe what he was saying in them."

Seven years on, Addison's globe-trotting has been temporarily suspended. His travels have taken him to posts in South Africa, Kuwait and Qatar, as well as Celta Vigo, Cádiz and Deportivo Badajos in Spain, but he has alighted at Penydarren Park, Merthyr Tydfil, and intends to stay for the foreseeable future.

On Saturday, he takes his mid-table Dr Martens League premier division side to Leyton Orient, of the Nationwide League third division, for an FA Cup first-round tie. It will be a family outing for Addison, his wife, Jean, and daughters Rachel, 28, and Lisa, 24. Already, the Cup memories are stirring, mostly of the day, in February 1972, when mighty Newcastle United were humbled 2-1 in a replay by Hereford United, of the Southern League.

Addison, now 56, was player-manager of Hereford — he has subsequently had spells with Notts County, Newport County, West Bromwich Albion and Derby County — and recollections of the scenes of jubilation have hardly faded.

Addison recalled: "Who can forget the Ronnie Radford goal? It was the goal of the day, the week, the month and every year since. I'm sure it'll be trotted out again on TV. No one ever forgets it, do they?" Addison is arranging a 25th anniversary reunion, in the new year, for Hereford's finest.

Last season, Deportivo Badajos missed promotion to the Spanish first division by one goal. It was time to move on again. "A lot of people wondered why I should choose here, from Madrid to Merthyr if you like," he said. "It suits me, that's why. It's a nice little club, it's got a good set-up and I'm enjoying it.

"Maybe I could have managed a bigger club in this country, but it's probably been a case of out of sight, out of mind. I'm still ambitious, I always will be, but I'm quite happy for the moment." Only recently, he spurned advances from another Spanish second division club.

Addison's return home was sealed ten days before the start of the season. It involved a 50-minute drive from Hereford, where he lives, a cup of tea and a chat with Ken Gunter, the Merthyr chairman. He has no contract, no other part-time job and, as well as his managerial duties, is content to immerse himself in all things Merthyr.

"When I'd agreed to join, I told my wife that I'd had another offer from abroad," he said. "You should have seen her reaction. I think she was a bit relieved when I told her where it was." Addison's wanderlust may not yet be fully satisfied, but, for the time being, a brief trip to the Orient will suffice.

Cambridge turn to McFarland to keep drive alive

By Our Sports Staff

CAMBRIDGE United, of the Nationwide League third division, have appointed Roy McFarland, the former England centre half, as their new manager. McFarland, who has signed an 18-month contract, succeeds Tommy Taylor, who left to take over at Leyton Orient.

McFarland, capped 28 times by England, had two periods as manager of Derby County and also had a spell at Bradford City before taking Bolton Wanderers into the FA Carling Premiership. He left Burnden Park eight months ago.

"We needed someone of high calibre and experience to keep our promotion campaign going and Roy fits that bill," the Cambridge chairman, Reg Smart, said. "He has operated at a much higher level as a player and manager, but impressed us with his enthusiasm for this job. We had to tell him there was no money to spend on players, but that did not affect his keenness to join us."

Sampdoria's move for Tomas Brolin, of Leeds United, has collapsed because of doubts over the player's fitness. The Swede, 26, was expected to sign on loan until the end of the season, with a view to a permanent move, but the Italian club's doctors say his ankle injury is too serious for the move to go ahead.

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, will appear before a Football Association disciplinary commission tomorrow to answer a charge of misconduct after his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters last month. The Australian is still waiting to hear whether police intend to take any further action. After complaints from supporters, a report was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service.

A crowd of 60,000 is expected for the match between Manchester United and Arsenal on Saturday. About 55,000 will be at Old Trafford while another 5,000 are expected at Highbury to watch the game on the big screen.

Arsenal were allocated only 3,000 tickets for travelling supporters.

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CHANGING TIMES

Wimbledon lead way in late escapes

By Russell Kempson

WIMBLEDON and Southampton have shown radical improvement in the FA Carling Premiership of late, but, on Tuesday night, they were forced to scrap in an undignified manner before maintaining their involvement in the Coca-Cola Cup. Only after the scariest of third-round replays, against Luton Town and Lincoln City respectively, did they achieve safe passages into the next round.

Of the pair, Wimbledon, unbeaten in 12 matches and in third place in the Premiership, survived the most torrid experience. They trailed 1-0 to Luton, from the Nationwide League second division, after Blackwell had scored an own goal in the first half.

The match had entered injury time at Kenilworth Road before Castledine equalised to force extra time. Peter Fear scored eight minutes into the additional period to soothe the furrowed brow of Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager.

"We had to battle right from the start and were probably a bit fortunate in the end," Kinnear said. "We got stronger as the game wore on and, after we'd scored, there was only going to be one winner."

Lennie Lawrence, the Luton manager, whose side had been undefeated in their previous 13 matches, refused to blame Mike Riley, the referee, for adding on stoppage time — unlike angry sections of the home supporters. "I was totally satisfied with the ref's performance and his timekeeping," he said.

Southampton, without a defeat in seven matches, were also 1-0 down against Lincoln at Sincil Bank, Gareth Ainsworth scoring in the ninth minute for the Nationwide League third division club. However, they were unable to repeat their display of the previous round, when they knocked out Manchester City, with Southampton scoring three times in the closing quarter of an hour.

"We didn't panic or change our style," Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, said. "We kept passing and that's what gave us the opportunities to get back into it."

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 2 Cardiff 0
SCHOOLS MATCH: Boodle and Dunthorne Cup: Third round: Shrewsbury 1 Manchester GS 1 (aet; Manchester GS win 5-4 on penalties)
WORLD CUP: South American qualifying zone: Chile 1 Uruguay 0 (in Santiago). Oceanian qualifying zone: Western Samoa 2 Cook Islands 1 (in Nuku'alofa, Tonga).

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Third round replays: Lincoln City 1 Southampton 3; Luton 1 Wimbledon 2 (aet; score 1-1 after 90 minutes).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 3 Norwich City 1. Second division: Shrewsbury 2 Bristol Rovers 0.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow 0 Marine 1; Colwyn Bay 1 Chorley 1; Frickley 2 Blyth Spartans 2; Gainsborough 3 Alfreton 0; Guiseley 2 Buxton 0; Runcorn 4 Winsford 3; Witton 1 Knowsley 3. League Cup: Second round: Lancaster 0 Accrington Stanley 2. Unifilla Cup: Second-round replays: Eastwood Town 0 Harrogate Town 1, Flixton 0 Droylsden 0; Netherfield 2 Gretna 1; Workington 1 Whitley Bay 0
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury 3 Worcester 2. Midland division: Tamworth 3 Rothwell 0. Southern division: Clevedon 2 Trowbridge 1. League Cup: First round, second leg: Cheltenham 5 Newport AFC 0 (Cheltenham win 6-2 on agg)
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 0 Yeovil 3; Hendon 2 Oxford City 0. Heybridge Swifts 2 Staines 1; Kingstonian 5 Grays 2. First division: Walton and Hersham 0 Basingstoke 2. Second division: Bedford Town 3 Leatherhead 0; Leighton 2 Bracknell 0
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP: Second round: First leg: Bangor City 5 Connah's Quay 0; Barry 0 Ebbw Vale 0; Holywell 0 Rhyl 0; Newtown 1 Aberystwyth 1
SUN LIFE GOLD CUP: Final: Linfield 1 Glenavon 0
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 0 Everton 0; Oldham 0 Derby 0. Second division: Rotherham 4 Mansfield 3, Stockport 1 Bradford 1
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second qualifying round replays: Worksop 2 Farsley Celtic 1; Yeading 3 Chertsey 1; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Dartford 3; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Stocksbridge Park Steels 1.
FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Leeds 2 Sheffield Wednesday 2; Blackburn 3 Blackpool 1, Hereford 1 Luton 3.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Easington 0 Durham 2; South Shields 1 Seaham Red Star 1.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Brackley 6 Wantage 0.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Hadleigh 0 Warboys 0; March 0 Fakenham 3; Newmarket 2 Bury Town 1, Sudbury 0 Lowestoft 1, Tiptree 0 Felixstowe P and T 1; Woodbridge 0 Harwich and Parkeston 0
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers premier division cup: Arlesey 2 Brache Sparta 0; Harpenden 2 Royston 1; Langford 0 Toddington 4
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 2 Burscough 2; Eastwood Hanley 1 Rossendale 0, Bootle 3 Mossley 1.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 6 Mile Oak 0; Langney Sports 1 Ringmer 2; Pagham 1 Whitehawk 4, Peacehaven and Telscombe 0 Hassocks 2; Southwick 1 Three Bridges 1.
SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Third round: Bristol 0 Newport 2
GERMAN CUP: Quarter-final: Bayern Munich 3 Werder Bremen 1.
ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: AC Milan 1 Vicenza 1; Cremonese 1 Bologna 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 87 Cleveland 83; Miami 105 Charlotte 97; Philadelphia 101 New York 97; Detroit 92 Washington 79; LA Lakers 126 Houston 115 (OT), Minnesota 100; Portland 97; Dallas 103 Indiana 82; Milwaukee 98 Phoenix 89 (OT); Seattle 121 Golden State 102, LA Clippers 99 Vancouver 92 (OT)

BOWLS

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: East section: Glynchondda 91 Henllys 63; Ystradfodwg 75 Rhydycar 83; Uskmouth 58 Llynfi 95; Wyllie 62 Casnewydd 95; Bute 79 Taff Ely 62. Colcot 74 Oakfield 88. Pontcanna 108 Coed Duon 47. West section: St Florence 85 Cennen 99; Llandarcy 103 Amman 47; Penybont 67 Mumbles 87, Seaday 69 Alan 92; Cleddau 48 Stepney 139; Cwich 121 Sospan 45; Margam 80 Jersey Marine 81

BOXING

DUDLEY: Middleweight (10 rnds): Robert McCracken (Birmingham) bt Glen Odem (US) pts; Welterweight (8 rnds): Spencer McCracken (Birmingham) bt Ojay Abrahams (Watford) pts. Welterweight (6 rnds): Paul Samuels (Newport) bt Mark Ramsey (Birmingham) rsc 4th rnd.

CRICKET

Singer Champions' Trophy

New Zealand v Pakistan

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat New Zealand by four wickets

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young lbw b Shahid Nazir	2
C M Spearman c Moin b Shahid Nazir	2
A C Parore c Shahid Afridi b Waqar	78
N J Astle c Moin b Waqar	5
C L Cairns b Waqar	18
M J Greatbatch lbw b Waqar	0
C Z Harris lbw b Waqar	1
*†L K Germon run out	52
D N Patel b Waqar	2
S B Doull not out	3
D K Morrison c Salim b Saqlain	0
Extras (lb 5, w 20, nb 3)	28
Total (50 overs)	192

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-7, 3-28, 4-57, 5-57, 6-60, 7-175, 8-187, 9-191.

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 10-1-44-6; Shahid Nazir 7-1-35-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-30-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 10-1-30-1, Shahid Afridi 7-1-26-0; Salim Malik 6-0-22-0.

PAKISTAN

*Saeed Anwar c Greatbatch b Harris	54
Aamir Sohail c Parore b Cairns	25
Ijaz Ahmed c Germon b Astle	16
Salim Malik c Germon b Morrison	41
Hassan Raza lbw b Cairns	1
†Moin Khan not out	37
Shahid Afridi b Cairns	3
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	5
Extras (lb 3, w 9, nb 2)	14
Total (6 wkts, 48.3 overs)	196

Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Nazir did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-66, 2-101, 3-109, 4-113, 5-181, 6-187.

BOWLING: Morrison 8-0-46-1; Doull 0.2-0-7-0; Astle 9.4-0-29-1; Patel 10-2-60-0; Harris 10-1-27-1; Cairns 10-2-18-3; Spearman 0.3-0-6-0.

Man of the match: Waqar Younis.

Umpires: S K Bansal (India) and I T Robinson (Zimbabwe)

CYCLING

MUNICH: Munich Six Days track event: 1, A Baffi and G Lombardi (It) 394pts; 2, B Risi and K Betschart (Switz) 387; 3, S Martinello and M Villa (It) 381; 4, A Kappes and C Wolf (Ger) 327; 5, E Zabel and E de Wilde (Bel) 290.

ICE HOCKEY

SHEFFIELD: Olympic qualifying match: Great Britain 5 Slovenia 0
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 3 Washington 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 3 Buffalo 0; Hartford 4 San Jose 3

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: British Open final qualifying round: M Eadie bt K Ludekens 6-5, 6-5, M Coghlan bt A Oliver 5-6, 6-0, 6-3; R Dery bt J Wilcocks 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; P Jarvis bt R Kraznenc 6-1, 6-0
LEAMINGTON: Bathurst Cup: Semi-finals: Great Britain 5 United States 0 (Great Britain names first): M Howard bt B Hill 6-0, 6-0, 6-2; J Snow bt R McLean 6-0, 6-2, 6-4, N Pendrigh and J Acheson-Gray bt Hill and McLean 6-0, 6-2, 6-2; Acheson-Gray bt Hill 6-2, 6-3; Howard bt McLean 6-1, 6-1. Australia 5 France 0 (Australia names first): M Happell bt D Grozdanovitch 6-2, 6-2, 6-0; W Spring bt X Massip 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Happell and M Hayward bt Massip and G Ruault 6-0, 6-0, 6-2; Happell bt Massip 6-0, 6-0, R Dery bt Grozdanovitch 6-4, 6-0

RUGBY UNION

Tour matches

Connacht 20 Australia XV 37

Connacht: Try: Leahy. Pens: Elwood 5. Australia XV: Tries: Gregan 2, Finegan, Gavin, Murdoch. Cons: Wallace 3. Pens: Wallace 2

(at Sports Ground, Galway)

Cuyo 19 South Africa XV 89 (in Mendoza, Argentina).
UNDER-21 MATCH: Connacht 13 New Zealand News 62 (at Crowley Park, Galway).
OTHER MATCH: British Police 27 British Fire Service 27.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Ireland 25 Western Samoa 40 (at Lansdowne Road)
CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 17 Northampton 57
SCHOOLS MATCHES: KCS, Wimbledon 62 Douai 5; London Oratory 0 St Olave's 47; Marlborough 19 Cheltenham 18; Monkton Combe 8 Dean Close 37; Rishworth 19 Ermysted's GS 5; St Benedict's 10 Tiffin 10

TABLE TENNIS

BRIDGNORTH: European Women's League: Super division: England 4 Croatia 1 (England names first): H Lower lost to T Boros 21-10, 21-17; L Lomas bt A Aganovic 21-15, 21-16; A Holt bt S Jurinec 21-18, 21-13, Lomas and Holt bt Boros and Aganovic 26-24, 21-9; Lomas bt Boros 22-20, 20-22, 21-17.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Guardian Direct national championships: Men's singles: First round: A Parmar (Hertfordshire) bt M Boulding (Yorkshire) 6-4, 6-3, A Foster (Staffordshire) bt M Wyeth (Surrey) 7-6, 6-3. J Delgado (Warwickshire) bt G Henderson (Yorkshire) 6-3, 6-2; M Lee (Sussex) bt D Ward (Kent) 6-0, 6-2; N Weal (Hampshire and IoW) bt C Wall (Surrey) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, M Maclagan (West of Scotland) bt J Davidson (Buckinghamshire) 6-2, 6-2. A Richardson (Lincolnshire) bt L Milligan (Middlesex) 7-5, 6-1; T Spinks (Norfolk) bt S Pender (Cornwall) 2-6, 7-6, 8-6; G Rusedski (unattached) bt J Fox (Lincolnshire) 7-6, 6-4, P Robinson (Northamptonshire) bt D Sapsford (Surrey) 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. Second round: T Henman (Oxfordshire) bt N Beglin (Cheshire) 7-6, 6-0, N Gould (Avon) bt C Beecher (Kent) 7-5, 7-6; Delgado bt Foster 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. Women's singles: First round: C Taylor (Oxfordshire) bt E Langley (Shropshire) 6-1, 7-5; E Bond (Gloucestershire) bt S Tse (Isle of Man) 6-0 ret; L Ahl (Devon) bt L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) 6-4, 7-5. L Woodroffe (Surrey) bt R Viollet (Lancashire) 6-4, 6-4; C Wood (Sussex) bt S-A Siddall (Dorset) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; L Herbert (Hertfordshire) bt N Woodhouse (Norfolk) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; J Pullin (Sussex) bt F Hearn (Middlesex) 6-3, 6-0, H Matthews (Berkshire) bt K Cross (Devon) 6-3, 7-5. J Wood (Middlesex) bt T Callow (Middlesex) 6-3, 6-2. Second round: S Smith (Essex) bt E Jelfs (Oxfordshire) 6-1, 6-3; L Latimer (Warwickshire) bt M Miller (Yorkshire) 7-5, 6-2; Ahl bt Woodroffe 6-3, 6-2, Wood bt K Roubanova (Berkshire) 6-2, 6-2, Matthews bt Bond 2-6, 6-4, 6-6; Pullin bt J Choudhury (Cambridgeshire) 6-2, 6-4
VILLANOVA, Pennsylvania: Women's tournament: First round: I Majoli (Cro) bt J Wiesner (Austria) 6-2, 6-2; Y Basuki (Indo) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-4, 7-6; L Raymond (US) bt G Fernandez (US) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S WORLD SUPER CHALLENGE: China bt Brazil 15-13, 10-15, 15-6, 15-4; Cuba bt Thailand 15-4, 15-6, 15-7. South Korea bt Japan 9-15, 15-11, 15-5, 15-9

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £4,557.05, 23 £32.90, 22 £3.30, 21 £1.05. Half-time results (24pts, max): £28,846.15. Four draws: £1.90. Ten homes: £115.45. Five aways: £7,844.00.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,373.10, 23 £13.40, 22 £2.80. Premier 10 (paid on eight correct): £109.00. Super shots (paid on two scorers in correct order): £89.00
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £402.20, 23 £2.25, 22 £0.30 (three dividends only). First eight (no maximum 16pts winners). 15 pts £212.85. 14pts £1.20. 13 pts £1.15. Four aways: £156.30. Eight homes: £6.00. Four draws: £2.00. Super 7: £36.30. Lucky numbers: 38, 5, 8, 34, 36, 26.

RUGBY UNION: AUSTRALIANS LACK PROVINCE'S FLAIR AS THEY EXTEND WINNING TOUR SEQUENCE

Connacht's ploy earns consolation in defeat

Connacht	20
Australia XV	37

FROM KARL JOHNSTON
IN GALWAY

CONNACHT did not win the match, but they earned ten out of ten for invention yesterday when they took on the Australia touring team at the Sports Ground here.

They were trailing 30-15 when Eric Elwood's sweetly-judged free kick won a lineout just short of the Australian line. Apart from Conor McGuinness, the scrum half, and Billy Mulcahy, the hooker, every other player joined the lineout. Graham Heaslip won Mulcahy's throw, the 13-man pack drove forward and Shane Leahy was over for Connacht's only try.

Elwood, who had kept Connacht in the hunt with five penalty goals, missed the conversion, but it did not seem to matter, for 30-20 would have been a fair final scoreline. Unhappily for Connacht, Alistair Murdoch then raced in for Australia's fifth try, between the posts, and Tim Wallace added the conversion, to secure a flattering winning margin.

Connacht's unorthodox last ploy had been tried on their tour of Sweden at the start of the season, Warren Gatland, the coach, said, and a capacity crowd was loud in its acclaim.

Australia were a stolid and predictable side and, when Connacht led 12-7 at half-time, local supporters were scenting an unexpected and unprecedented victory. Elwood had landed four penalty goals, against Tim Gavin's try, converted by Wallace, and his fifth penalty, just after the restart, sent hopes soaring higher still.

Elwood had an excellent match, his performance all the more notable as it came a day after his exertions for Ireland A against South Africa A, a match in which Leahy had also been involved. However, to their credit, the Australians inched their way back. There was scarcely any flair and although the public address announcer vociferously sang the praises of David Campese, the great man did little to add to his reputation.

Nevertheless, for all their dull approach — the Australians rarely spread the ball wide — once Wallace had converted Gregan's try, a Connacht triumph began to seem less likely. Wallace's first penalty goal gave Australia the lead again and from then on Connacht were made to struggle.

Gregan's second try, then one from Finegan, were scored when Connacht's defensive resources were beginning to crumble. Connacht were reduced to very occasional sorties, though one of them — a fine break by Barry down the middle — might have brought greater rewards with better luck.

Gatland, though, had reason to be well-satisfied with the display of a team that he had taken over at short notice. Elwood and McGuinness did well and even though the pack had to play second fiddle in the lineouts, their scrummaging was solid and rucking and mauling admirable.

For those who came expecting to see a feast of Australian running rugby, the game was a disappointment, but Greg Smith, the visitors' coach, was unperturbed. Seven wins in seven matches said it all, he inferred.

SCORERS: Connacht: Try: Leahy. Penalty goals: Elwood (5). Australia XV: Tries: Gregan (2), Gavin, Finegan, Murdoch. Conversions: Wallace (3). Penalty goals: Wallace (2).

CONNACHT: B Casey (Blackrock College); M Keadin (Lansdowne), A Reddan (Lansdowne), N Barry (Clontarf), N Carolan (Corinthians); E Elwood (Lansdowne), C McGuinness (St Mary's College); J Maher (Sunday's Well Rangers), B Mulcahy (Skerries), M Finlay (Wanderers), N Taylor (Galwegians), S Leahy (Lansdowne), G Heaslip (Galwegians), R Rogers (Blackrock College, captain), B Gavin (Galwegians). Taylor replaced by M Reilly (Oxford University, 52min). Maher replaced by R Ward (Old Belvedere, 62). Barry replaced by M Murphy (Galwegians, 72).

AUSTRALIA XV: T Wallace (New South Wales); B Tune (Queensland), A Murdoch (NSW), R Tombs (NSW), D Campese (NSW); S Larkham (Australian Capital Territory), G Gregan (ACT); C Blades (NSW), M Caputo (ACT), A Heath (NSW), T Kefu (Queensland), D Giffin (ACT), T Gavin (NSW), B Robinson (ACT, captain), O Finegan (ACT).

Referee: S Piercy (England).

PATRICK BOLGER

Kefu, the Australia XV flanker, bursts through the Connacht defence to launch an attack yesterday

Samoans deserve greater exposure

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE INTERNATIONAL rugby community in general, and the southern hemisphere in particular, can take little pride in the limbo in which Western Samoa is playing rugby. At a time when the world game needs all the competitive teams it can find, the Samoans — who must stand as high as No 6 or No 7 in the global rankings — are making do on a shoestring.

They lace tight, as Ireland discovered on Tuesday night. Whichever statistic you study, the 40-25 defeat handed out at Lansdowne Road or the fact that the Samoans scored five tries to Ireland's one, it was a performance to place alongside other mighty results achieved away from the Pacific islands: against Wales in 1991 and against Italy, Argentina and Scotland in 1995.

It was also a game to warm the heart of Sir Michael Fay, the chairman of Manu Samoa Rugby Limited, who was among the first into the dressing-room after the final whistle. Fay is a New Zealander with Irish forebears and his involvement — through his firm, Fay Richwhite — has been the means whereby the Samoan management could offer the players some recompense and counter the financial attractions of the New Zealand dollar, the Japanese Yen or, indeed, sterling.

"Players can earn good money elsewhere and still play international rugby for Manu Samoa," Bryan Williams, their coach, said. The former New Zealand wing acknowledges that his triumphant players had hoped for two internationals from this tour, but have had to settle for one. Their next international has yet to be confirmed because of difficulties involved in establishing the Pacific Rim tournament.

They will play inter-island matches with Fiji and Tonga and there are qualifying games in the Pacific zone of the 1999 World Cup to make ready for, but it is, at best, an ad hoc existence. Their results over the past five years show they deserve better from New Zealand and Australia, and the organisers of the Super 12 tournament, who decided to omit them.

"Victory over Ireland gives us the credibility we desire," Williams said. "We have got some good young talent coming through and those players not with us know they have some competition." From players like Earl Va'a, the convert back from rugby league, whose composed game at stand-off half and whose goalkicking meant that the experienced Darren Kellett was hardly missed; when Va'a returned to the dressing-room after scoring 15 points, there were tears in his eyes.

"It was a big day for Earl," Pat Lam, his captain, said. "Now he's here for the long haul." By that, Lam means the road to the World Cup, the lure which may keep this team together and is even an attraction for the much-travelled Va'aiga Tuigamala, who played for New Zealand in the 1991 tournament. Tuigamala is understood to be looking at a permanent return to rugby union rather than the temporary arrangement between Wasps and Wigan Rugby League club.

More games planned

AUSTRALIA have arranged to play 11 international rugby union matches next year, including one against England at Twickenham in November, the first of a planned, annual home-and-away series.

England and France are due to play matches in Sydney and there will be a three-match series against New Zealand for the Bledisloe Cup, one of which will be at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on July 26.

However, Australian officials are concerned about the wear and tear on their players, who may appear only rarely for their clubs. John O'Neill, the union's chief executive, said that leading players could now expect to play just 22 games a season, comprising the internationals and Super 12 series against provincial teams from South Africa and New Zealand.

☐ A cheque for £250,000, raised from the charity international between Scotland and the Barbarians in August, was presented to the trustees of the Dumblane Appeal by the Scottish Rugby Union at Murrayfield yesterday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sugar prepares for supporters' unrest

ALAN SUGAR, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, is expected to be given a hostile reception at the football club's annual meeting today (Russell Kempson writes). Supporters have been growing concerned at the lack of investment in the transfer market and claim that the club is falling behind the big spenders of the FA Carling Premiership.

Representatives of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association and the Tottenham Action Group will attend the meeting and voice their disapproval at the manner in which they perceive Sugar is running the club. "We've got a number of questions we want to ask," Joff Wilde, of the action group, said yesterday. "We're not happy with the way Gerry [Francis] is managing the side, either, and the football we're playing is not far short of a disgrace. We want some answers, now."

League format decided

SNOOKER: Eight of the world's leading players will compete for a first prize of £60,000 in the 1997 Dr Martens European League at Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. Ken Doherty will begin the defence of his title on December 28 and has been grouped with Peter Ebdon, John Parrott and Jimmy White. John Higgins, a newcomer to the competition, will play in the other group against Stephen Hendry, Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan. After the first 12 matches, the top two in each group will face the bottom two in the other; after another 12 games, the four players with the best record qualify for the semi-finals.

Cradley Heath hopes

SPEEDWAY: Cradley Heath, who have just completed an expensive season in exile in Stoke, hope to return to their former home at Dudley Wood. The move follows the intervention of Dudley council, which has offered alternative land to the developers of Cradley Heath's former stadium, which had been earmarked for a housing project. Further talks are due to be held next week. Racing at Stoke cost Cradley Heath around £1,000 a week last season and a return to the Potteries has been ruled out. A move back to Dudley Wood could hold the key to the team's survival.

Takher suspended

HOCKEY: Kalbir Takher, right, the captain of Cannock, has been suspended for 16 days from November 25. Takher was alleged to have verbally abused Hamish Jamson, an umpire, after the premier division match against East Grinstead on October 12. The matter was referred to the Midland Counties Hockey Association, which convened a disciplinary committee to examine the case.

Hayles leads list

CYCLING: Rob Hayles, Britain's ten miles time-trial champion, who refused to ride in the world track championships this year without his usual partner, Russell Williams, heads the list of six riders named today to ride for the Ambrosia professional team next season, in which Williams is also included. Ambrosia have re-signed Mark McKay, king of the mountains in the recent South Africa Boland Bank tour and two further names will be added to the line-up of Hayles, Williams, McKay, Tim Hall, Dave Williams and Maria Lawrence.

Britain court victory

REAL TENNIS: Nigel Pendrigh and Jay Acheson-Gray, of Great Britain, comfortably defeated Brian Hill and Rob McLean, of the United States, 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 to seal the rubber 5-0 and set up a meeting with Australia, who beat France, in the final of the British Land Bathurst Cup at Leamington Tennis Court Club. The Bathurst Cup is the highlight of a week-long programme of events celebrating the Leamington Club's sesquicentenary (150 years). Other events are planned throughout the week and the occasion has attracted a strong interest from overseas.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes the information about what to lead comes in an unusual way. I found a good lead on this hand for a strange reason: I'd had a really bad week, but on the Friday I was £800 ahead going into the last hand and for the first time for days it seemed I might have a winning session. Then as West I picked up the following:

♠54 ♥Q98763 ♦92 ♣765

The bidding took a sickeningly familiar course:

S	W	N	E
2 C	Pass	2 D	Pass
3 C	Pass	4 C	Pass
4 NT (1)	Pass	5 H (2)	Pass
7 NT	All pass		

(1) Blackwood. (2) Two aces.

As I pondered my lead, the declarer announced triumphantly that he could lay his hand down before the lead. When he failed to do so I thought on with grim determination. In ill-mannered fashion North and South exchanged hands, and South looked a little sick. "I thought I could guarantee it," he said to his partner, as he thought sotto voce.

The light dawned on me as to the meaning of that statement — South had considered a blank king in his hand was worth two tricks opposite dummy's ace: he must now have seen that dummy had a blank ace in that suit. As hearts seemed the most likely suit in which this could be the case, I led the nine of hearts. This was the full deal:

	♠J10876 ♥A ♦10763 ♣A103	
♠54 ♥Q98763 ♦92 ♣765		♠K932 ♥J10542 ♦854 ♣2
	♠AQ ♥K ♦AKQJ ♣KQJ984	

Contract: 7 NT by South. Opening lead: nine of hearts

Impatient to go home, the declarer took the spade finesse at trick two — if the king had been wrong he would have been six off in 7 NT. With luck like that it was not necessary for him to bid the lay-down Seven Diamonds. I scored up another losing day.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

LOOMERY
a. A carpet factory
b. The gloaming
c. A guillemot colony

MOFETTE
a. A child's muff
b. A young bat
c. A nasty stink

LAMPION
a. An ornamental lamp
b. A swaggering show-off
c. A neutral ion

MUDDEN
a. Made of mud
b. To confuse
c. A dunghill

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Simplified notation

Today I continue my explanation of simplified modern notation by which readers can follow the moves of a game of chess. In my last two columns I have already shown the basic notation and the most common symbols, such as those for castling and check. Today I explain what happens when two pieces of the same colour and same type can both go to the same square.

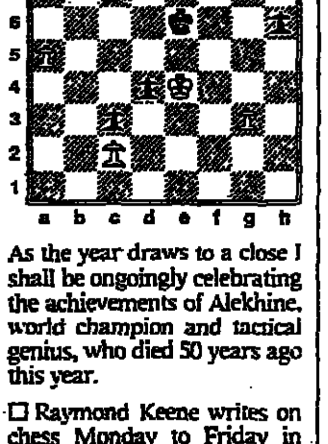
For example, in today's game, after Black's 24th move, White has two knights, both of which can reach the square f5 giving check. The move as given 25 N6f5+ shows that it was the knight on d6, rather than on d4 which went to f5. Similarly, on move 28 (28 Ndf5) it is White's knight on d4, not the knight on g7, which goes to f5. A further example is that on move 30 Black plays 30 ... Rdxg7, showing that it is his rook on d7, not his rook on g8, which captures the white knight.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Efim Bogoljubow
World Championship
Bayreuth 1934

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	Bxc6	dxc6
6	Nc3	Bd6
7	d3	c5
8	h3	Be6
9	Be3	h6
10	a4	c4
11	d4	exd4
12	Bxd4	Bb4
13	0-0	c6
14	e5	Nd5
15	Ne4	Nf4
16	Bc5	Bxc5
17	Qxd8+	Rxd8
18	Nxc5	b6
19	Nb7	Rd7
20	Nd6+	Ke7
21	Nd4	Bd5
22	g3	Nxh3+
23	Kh2	Ng5
24	f4	Ne4
25	N6f5+	Kd8
26	Nxg7	f6
27	Rad1	Kc8
28	Ndf5	fxe5
29	fxe5	Rg8
30	e6	Rdxg7
31	Nxg7	Rxg7
32	Rxd5	cxd5
33	Rf8+	Kc7
34	Rf7+	Kd6
35	Rxg7	Kxe6
36	Rg6+	Ke5
37	Kg2	b5
38	a5	d4
39	Rxa6	b4
40	Kf3	c3
41	bxc3	bxc3
42	Re6+	Kxe6
43	Kxe4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

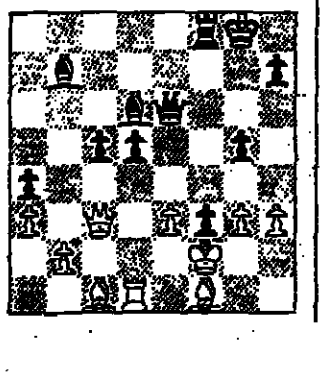


As the year draws to a close I shall be ongoingly celebrating the achievements of Alekhine, world champion and tactical genius, who died 50 years ago this year.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Monticelli — Najdorf, Warsaw 1935. How did Black unleash the enormous potential energy stored up behind his pawn on f3?

Solution on page 50

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Days of unpaid play eclipsed by dash for cash

BRYANT'S EYE

There was a time when, if you were a young athlete who raced hard and dreamt of some day representing your country, the best you could hope for was to carry away a Wedgewood biscuit barrel or, in those innocent days, a silver cigarette case. From today, if you share those same dreams, you can hope to take home a salary of up to £28,000 a year tax free.

There was a time when sport, even for Olympic hopefuls, was little more than unpaid play: from today, it will be lottery-funded work.

Here are two pictures of British sport — a glimpse of the past and a vision of the future. One is contained in an evocative and lovingly kept scrapbook that chronicles an athletic career launched before the first great war: the other is outlined in a Sports Council blueprint that confidently predicts that instant cash is the way to Olympic glory.

Walter Jarvis was already 22 in 1910, when his name first appeared in newspaper reports of races. A gifted middle and long-distance runner, he was soon winning prizes and his every appearance was lovingly recorded in a bound cuttings book kept by his wife.

He worked by day as a clerk in the offices of the Silvertown Rubber Works in London's East End and raced at the weekends at distances from the half-mile to ten miles and more, carrying off an amazing tally of cups and prizes. He ran with a long, elegant stride that was to make him champion miler of all Essex.

The pages of his scrapbook tell of a world long vanished. The list of prizes read like the inventory from a pawnbroker's shop. At the Silvertown Rubber Works sports, at Canning Town on May 23, 1914, a champion could have taken his pick from 14-day French mahogany clocks, Morocco and silver cigarette cases, Gladstone bags, gold cufflinks and studs, Wedgewood bowls and servers, silver watches and endless canteens of cutlery.

'Watermark of British amateurism'

Jarvis, on that May afternoon, won the "Marathon Race" (10½ miles) in 59min 47sec by more than a mile. He took away a solid gold medal and a three-bottle liqueur stand.

The race programmes of the time tell of an era when sport was pure play. Among the track and field events were skipping races, tugs of war and veterans events. In one 100 yard handicap race, an 83-year-old romped home in third place. This was a world where sport was genuine recreation — far away from the serious business of work and war.

In the scrapbook, the reports of the races come to an abrupt halt in the middle of a page on August 3, 1914 — on the eve of the outbreak of war. Without comment or explanation, the pasted-in cuttings resume on March 8, 1919.

The men who turned then from the havoc of the battle fronts to the peace of the playing field were the *Chariots of Fire* generation. Albert Hill, Jarvis's contemporary, training under Sam Mussabini, the legendary coach, pulled off the 800 and 1,500 metres double in the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920.

Rewarded only with their clocks and cigarette cases, their cups and medals, this was the high watermark of British amateurism. This generation of leisure-time athletes would have gaped in disbelief at the plans announced this week for the future of Great Britain's Olympic competitors.

The Sports Council unveils plans today for a £50 million fund from the National Lottery aimed at creating medal-winners. Instant cash will be made available to elite performers — and there will be back-up money for coaching, travel, equipment and medical treatment. This shift to all-out professionalism comes in the wake of what many have written off as Britain's worst Olympic performance since Helsinki in 1952.

It seems that, to compete with the world these days, it is necessary to offer our sportsmen regular wages and set them to work to earn their money. Good luck to them, and let us hope it works — for press cuttings in a scrapbook will never pay the bills.

There are many, though, who believe that you will never produce a great Olympic champion if you equate going to the track with just another day at the office.

However, there is one element in the Sports Council's blueprint that has much to commend it, for it tackles a problem as old as organised sport itself. The council plans to set up a counselling service to help sportsmen and women with personal problems, and a training scheme to help them to find jobs at the end of their sporting careers.

'Middle aged and pitched out of work'

At the end of his sporting career, Walter Jarvis found himself in middle age and pitched out of work — a victim of the great economic slump of the early Thirties. This man, with the values of a vanished age, who had once posed so proudly as mile champion of Essex, found that he was unable to live with the shame, as he saw it, of long-term unemployment. In despair, he took his own life. No more athletics, no more work, no more money.

All that remains is a scrapbook.

JOHN BRYANT

Oliver Holt meets Georgina Usher, a fencer going for broke in the quest for gold

Duellist determined to make her point

Georgina Usher says fencing is like "physical chess". It is a mind game, a battle of anticipation and reaction, of adapting to new tactics and exploiting weaknesses in an opponent's defence. Since she has competed on the world stage, she has felt like a pawn in a knight's world.

Her fate in her formative fencing years has been a bit like that of the Saracen in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the warrior whirling his blade extravagantly and expectantly around his head as he prepares to fight Indiana Jones, only to be cut down when his opponent draws a gun.

Her story of fighting against people with what seem like unfair advantages is a familiar one in Britain, of course. Lack of funding, trying to mix the dream of Olympic success with the reality of holding down a job and coming up against opponents from other countries who are fencing full time has sometimes caused her to be overwhelmed by their weight of experience.

Five weeks ago, Usher, 24, who is Britain's leading epéeist, finally grew tired of the cycle of underachievement. A Cambridge graduate in computer science, she walked out of her highly-paid job with Andersen Consulting so that she could train full time for the European championships in Limoges last week. The effect astounded even her.

Despite the presence of most of the France team that dominated the Atlanta Olympic Games and other top fencers from strongholds of the sport such as Hungary and Germany, she made a mockery of her 93rd place in the world rankings and finished fifth. Two days later, last Sunday, she followed that up by winning the Welsh Open in Cardiff. "I took the decision to stop work in March this year when qualification was going on for the Olympics," she said. "I didn't make it, but I knew I could have done if I hadn't been subjected to the pressures and stresses that go with a job.

"The only way to do it is to do it properly and over the next four years it is going to be my No 1 priority. I have a four-year plan and at the end of it, hopefully, there will be a gold medal in Sydney. I know it will be very, very hard and I will be broke when it is over, but I have to do it."

The rest of the four-year plan began in a cold and echoing school gym at the foot of Haverstock Hill, in north London, on Tuesday night. The Haverstock Fencing Club, one of about a dozen in the capital, practises there three nights a week, straight after the ragged band of hacking five-a-side footballers have trudged out. Usher has little choice but to duel with the same people week-in, week-out in a sport in which countering different styles is essential.

Her task now is to wield her pen with the same flourish as her epée, to try to get some sponsors to back her so she can afford more coaching and travel to more of the World Cup events that determine a fencer's world ranking. There are 22 events in the series, but last season she could afford to travel to only five of them.

There has not been time yet for the impact of her performance in Limoges to sink in. Her achievement was so unexpected that it seemed to escape even most of the sport's aficionados in Britain.

Fencing may not be a telegenic sport, its split-second hits normally invisible without the aid of slow-motion replay, but Usher knows how to explain the allure of an art that was once linked to violence and wounding and is now as delicate and harmless a skill as ballet dancing.

"Occasionally I get aggressive in fights," she said, "but it is not really necessary. If you start punching your actions, you lose the technique of it all. You are not out to hurt somebody. You might lightly flick them round the wrist or try for the foot. When I fence someone, I don't want to cause them physical harm, I just want to win the game. It is all about trying to work out what a new opponent's favourite moves are. They might be an attacker, in which case you can parry their attack and then riposte. But the next time, they might know I'm going to do that parry so they will try something else. That is where the chess side of it takes over, in the second-guessing.

"You might think it might give me extra confidence, personally, but it doesn't really work like that. Like most women, I think about what would happen if I got into some sort of situation late at night. But even if I had my fencing bag with me, I think I would probably be more likely to cling to it than take out a sword."

DES JENSON

Usher's decision to fence full time has brought rapid results but financial hardship

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

LOOMERY

(c) The place where looms or guillemots flock together for breeding. *Loom is the name given in northern seas to species of* the guillemot and diver. Partly from Shetland dialect, partly an adaptation of the Swedish and Danish *lom*.

MOFETTE

(c) An exhalation of mephitic gas escaping from a fissure. Also, an opening or fissure in the earth from which such exhalations escape. *From the Italian (Naples)* *mofetta*, Spanish *mofeta*.

LAMPION

(a) A pot or cup, often of coloured glass, containing oil or grease with a wick used in illuminations. From the Italian *lampione* a carriage or street lamp, augmentative of *lampa* a lamp.

MUDDEN

(a) Made of mud, muddy. "Though the windows were unglazed, and the mudden floor was such that his feet often sunk two inches deep during the performance of service."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Bxg3+! 2 Kxg3 Qd6+ 3 Kf2 (3 Kg4 Bc8+ and White is swiftly mated) 3 ... Qh2+ 4 Ke1 Qg3+ 5 Kd2 Qf2+ 6 Kd3 Ba6+ and wins

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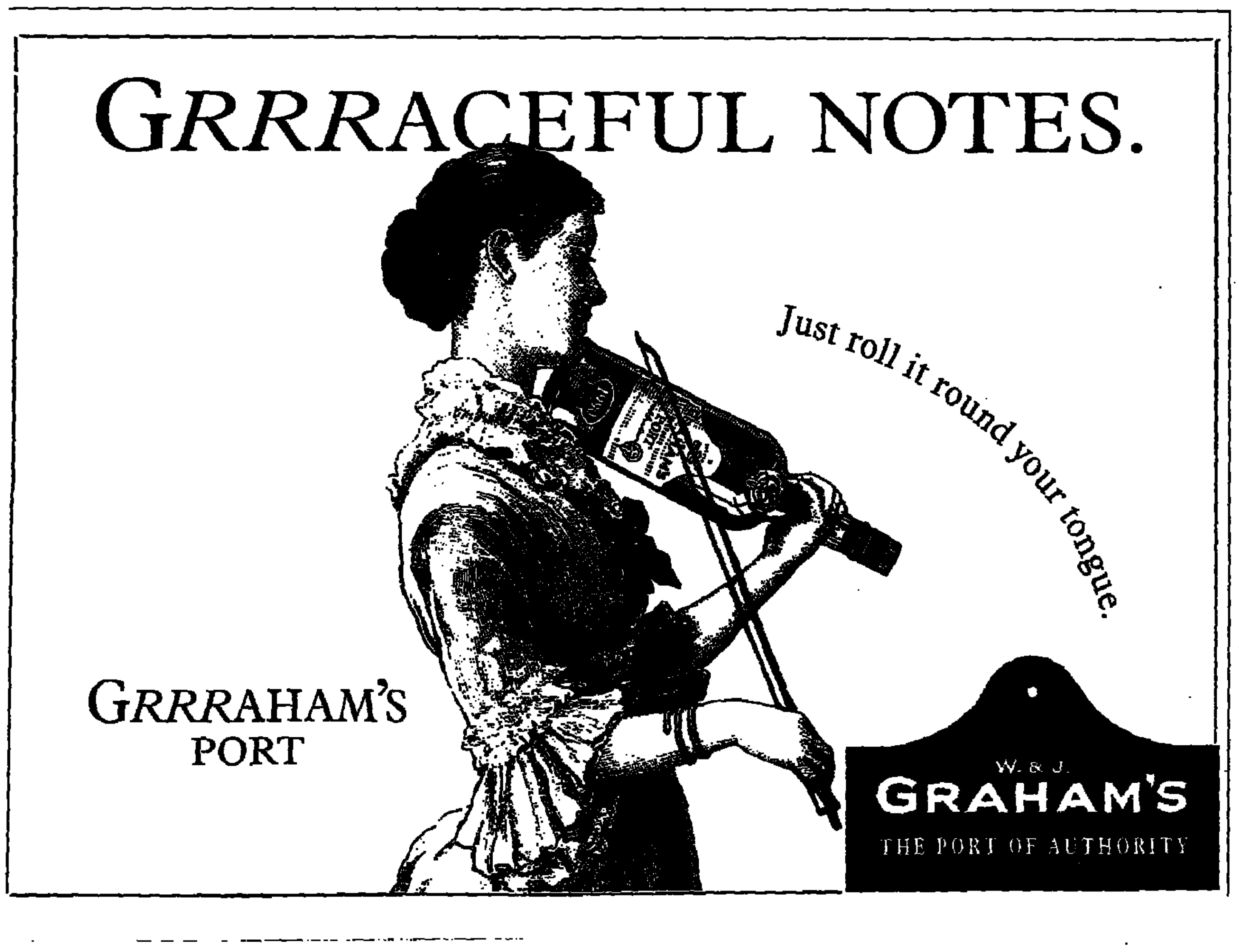

BOXING

Lewis hopes to land court blow

DON KING, the American promoter, could lose the right to stage the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall (Srikumar Sen writes). It could be awarded to Panix, the promotion company behind Lewis, if the British boxer is successful in a court action being heard today in New Jersey.

As a result of an action brought by Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, King and José Sulaiman, the president of the WBC, have been ordered to appear before Judge Amos Saunders to explain why they did not obey a court order to stage the bout by December 26. King has scheduled it for January 11 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Eliades said that King, who bid $9 million to promote the contest, rang him on Monday, offering to hand over the promotion if the court action was called off. Eliades said that he would not back down unless King was prepared to pay damages and costs and the training expenses for Lewis, who had been preparing for a bout in December.

RADIO CHOICE

Pledge takers, then and now

The New Recruit. *Radio 4, 8.45pm.*

The second of producer Lucy Lunt's engineered encounters between old and new hands takes for granted that, whether or not we're customers, we know the origin of those three brass balls that used to hang over certain shopfronts. I certainly did not know why pawnbrokers used to be called "uncles", but thanks to Lunt, I do now. The past and present pawnbrokers tonight are Roy (retired) and Jackie (newcomer). Roy remembers the days when widows, though fabulously rich on paper, needed some cash in hand and handed over boxes of jewels. They would then celebrate the transaction by cracking open a bottle of bubbly. Jackie's perks are less sophisticated, more homely. She is given novelty teapots.

Opera Matinée: Matilde di Shabran. *Radio 3, 1.00pm.*

Rossini's opera is rarely performed these days. The silly plot — orphan girl tames misogynous duke — only partly explains the neglect. The sad truth is that it just hasn't got that many good arias. Paganini no less, a good chum of Rossini, conducted the opera's premiere in 1821 when the scheduled director of music died of apoplexy. That wasn't Paganini's only good deed. When one of the horn players fell ill on the first night of the opera, he put down his baton, picked up his famous fiddle, and rattled off the horn part. Today's *Opera Matinée* recording of *Matilde*, in Italian, was made at this year's Rossini festival in Pesaro.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo. *With Harry Enfield as God of the Week* **12.00** Lisa I'Anson includes at **12.30pm-12.45** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **10.00** Stuart Maconie, live from Manchester **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **4.00am** Clive Warren, *with the Early Breakfast Show*

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Judi Spiers **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Helen Sharman **7.00** My Mammy and Me **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons, includes at **10.45** What's That Noise? **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** *Wake Up to Money* **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sports Bulletin **7.35** On the Line **7.55** The Thursday Match. Celtic v Rangers at Parkhead **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Anna Raeburn **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** *Words of Faith* **8.15** *Composer of the Month* **8.55** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports *International* **9.45** *Sport* **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** *Britain Today* **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Jazz Now and Then **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** *Assignment* **7.01** *Outlook* **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** *Meridian Books* **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Global Gardening **11.30** the [illegible] Stewart Show **12.30am** *Good Books* **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Pick of the World **3.15** Sport **3.30** *Focus on Faith* **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Vivaldi (Cello Concerto in B minor RV 424) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Louis Francois Dauprat (Sonata for Bassoon and Harp in C major) **7.00** Travel Guide. Maldives **8.00** Concert. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat K 595); Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F, Op 68, Pastoral) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** *Jeremy Clark* **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** *Randal Lee Rose*

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Byrd (Lamentations); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in F) Humperdinck (The Royal Children)

9.00 Morning Collection. With Peter Hobday, includes Holst (Fugal Concerto); Handel (Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op 3 No 5)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Lambert, ed Philip Lane (Overture for piano duet); *Vaughan Williams* (Concerto Grosso for string orchestra)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Cherubini and Spontini. Spontini found an influential friend in the empress-in-waiting Josephine Bonaparte who helped him score his first success with the opera *La Vestale*.

1.00pm News; Opera Matinee: Matilde di Shabran. See Choice. Performed by Karen Huffstodt, soprano, Denyce Graves, mezzo, J. Patrick Rafferty, *tenor and Anthony* Michaels Moore, baritone. Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan, conductor Riccardo Muti

4.45 Manuel de Falla. Seven *Spanish Popular Songs* performed by Victoria de los Angeles, soprano, and Gerald *Moore, piano*

5.00 The Music Machine. Wynton Marsalis demonstrates how to improvise

5.15 In Tune. Sean Doran, recently appointed artistic director of the Belfast Festival at Queen's, talks to Sean Rafferty. Includes Prokofiev (Adagio, Op 97 No 10 and Waltz, Op 102 No 4); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in F sharp); Part (Festina lente); David Diamond (Rounds)

7.30 Peter King. The saxophonist *was commissioned by Radio* 3 and Northern Arts to write two works for a combination of jazz and string quartets. Geoffrey Smith introduces the first performance which took *place at the Appleby Jazz* Festival in June

9.35 Grains of Sand. The great Indian or "Thar" desert is famous for its Rajput warrior dynasty. But, as Martin Buckley discovers, the world's most populous desert also has a strong sense of its contemporary cultural identity and, in particular, a lively musical life

10.00 Music Restored. Rinaldo Alessandrini directs his virtuoso vocal ensemble Concerto Italiano in *Monteverdi madrigals*, an explosion of passion, delirium, madness, *bloodshed and drama*

10.45 Night Waves. As David Hockey's latest exhibition *Putting You In the Picture* opens in Manchester, Hermione Lee investigates recent developments in his work

11.30 Composer of the Week: Percy Grainger. Includes The Merry Wedding and Father and Daughter (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby *Fairweather. Features the Bob* Berg Quartet

1.00 Through the Night. Includes **1.00** *Choral Evensong* **2.00** Bach, Shostakovich and Telemann **3.00** Schools **5.00** *Sequence*

RADIO 4

5.55am* Shipping (LW)** ***6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. *Michael Buerk* chairs an investigation into the moral questions behind the week's news. Witnesses face cross-examination from Dr David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey

10.00 News; The Hearts and *Lives of Men* (FM), by Fay Weldon. With Indie Davies, Jenny Funnell and Claire *Bullus (4/5)*

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

***10.30* Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Foul Play. Chairman Simon Brett challenges crime writers Simon Shaw and Margaret Yorke to solve the mystery of *The Corpse in the Car Park*. With Lee Simpson and Maria McErlane **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Homeboys, by Roy Williams. *Commissioned as* part of BBC Radio's Young Writers' Festival. The play is *about teenage rebellion* that threatens to tear two families apart. With Don Gilet and Vivienne Rochester

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen considers the work of Theatre Clwyd as a new *production of My Sister in This House* opens

4.45 Short Story: The Pebble, by *Bryan* MacMahon. Read by Ann Marie Horan. A token gift to a young girl has surprising consequences

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Hair in the Gate. *The return* of Clive Coleman's comedy *set* in arts broadcasting. Starring Geoffrey Whitehead, Rebecca Front and Joanna *Monro*

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Radio Lives. Liberace is *recalled in the series on the great names in radio,* television and beyond (3/6)

8.00 Analysis: United We Fall. Ngaire Woods considers the role of the UN

8.45 The New Recruit: Pawn *Brokers.* See Choice (2/4)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? *The* programme for people with disabilities. Presented by *Frederick Dove*

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Lady Chatterley's Confessions, by Elaine Feinstein (4/10)

11.00 Beaumarchais, by Craig Warner (2/6)

11.30 Ad Lib (FM) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: The Shipping News, by E. Annie Proulx. Read by William Hurt (4/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. ***RADIO 2.*** FM 88.0-90.2. ***RADIO 3.*** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. ***Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.***

Our hairy, slobbering friends in the North

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

A woman sits on a council-house sofa cuddling a huge dog and juggling a lighted cigarette. Her name is Maxine and she is a single mother with eight dogs the size of ponies; her back garden is a makeshift Regent's Park enclosure with netting, posts and dung, and she watches unmoved while animals copulate monstrously in front of the telly. It is not, thankfully, a scene you see every day. Woof. Beside her on the sofa, a small daughter hugs another dog of the same breed, occasionally kissing it on the mouth. "I love the dogs more than the kids," says Maxine, frankly. The child does not react. "They know I do," Maxine continues. "That is me. There's a lot worse things I could be as a parent than a dog lover."

This was last night's **Modern Times: Dog Trouble** (BBC2), a larky sort of programme by Nick O'Dwyer (woof, woof) about the dogs of Sheffield: specifically about the dogs, their turds, and their owners. Sorry to say turds so early in the day, but while "faeces" was the favoured word of the featured dog wardens last night (30 sacks of faeces were once recovered from a single basement), it is a bit fastidious and is, besides, impossible to render in the singular. At the beginning of last night's film, a few important facts were flashed on screen. Sheffield has 75,000 dogs; this adds up to 1,000 strays a year and ten tonnes of faeces a day. Which is a hell of a lot of turds, when you think about it.

Dogs bayed from the balconies of flats, alongside satellite dishes. Rottweiler owners defended the reputation of a dead dog who had savaged an old lady ("She must have hit him with her walking stick"). Woof, woof, went the soundtrack endlessly. Meanwhile the dog wardens rescued two traumatised dogs from the flat of "Mr Fox", an infernal place into which environmental health officers advanced holding air-freshener sprays at arm's length and peeling their shoes off the carpet. Generally O'Dwyer's film was aloof from finger-pointing, not a bit concerned with blame — as Mr Savage accused Mrs Buttery, and Mrs Buttery accused Mr Savage, and their dogs looked all dewy innocence at the camera — but by the time we met the offensive (and very drunk) Mr Fox, we would be forgiven in Heaven for wanting to punch his lights out.

By a rotten misfortune, the second episode of Paula Milne's **The Fragile Heart** (Channel 4) was cruelly pre-empted last night by a rather excellent new medical magazine series on BBC2. **Trust Me, I'm a Doctor** was presented by Phil Hammond, a smug young doctor who is possibly the first medical practitioner in history to understand precisely how annoying such smugness can be. The agenda of *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* is a bit hazy but journalistically it is hot stuff, being a sort of medical *Watchdog* without the phone lines.

So last night, just a couple of hours before *The Fragile Heart* subjected the arrogant surgeon Nigel Hawthorne to holistic medicine ("Your pulse is knotted, like knotted string," said the wise Chinese healer while Edgar grimaced and squirmed), *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* was exposing surgical mystique and dabbling with homoeopathy in a more direct and (honestly) more entertaining fashion. As I said last week, *The Fragile Heart* is a morality play so loaded against the puffed-up Edgar, and all he stands for, that he is little more than a lesson in the error of pride.

Will he learn that it is not polite to sneer at things beyond his understanding? We will find out next week. But his angina attacks get stronger, and in China events keep knocking against the sides of his conscience, making him rant and flail. Meanwhile his exasperatingly broad-minded GP wife (back in England) keeps clasping hands with the sick, smiling beatifically and, in short, asserting so much unchallenged spiritual authority that if she doesn't get run down by a bus next week, there's no justice. No wonder I preferred Dr Hammond in *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* cheerfully admitting that the main problem he had with homoeopathy was that "the central principle sounds so completely bonkers".

Over on ITV, it was a big one-hour special night for **Coronation Street**, — a wedding for Tracy, but more importantly the end of the line for the much-loved Curly and Raquel. *Coronation Street*'s ratings have been suffering recently but by the evidence of the script and acting last night, they certainly shouldn't be. When Curly (Kevin Kennedy) said that the strongest feelings conferred on him by Raquel were the second-rate ones of guilt and pity, it was heartbreaking. "It's only chocolate money," he said. Chocolate money? Was that a *metaphor*? Blimey, there's a turn-up. Of course, soap opera has a fixed rule about terrible life-crisis scenes: if a marriage hits the buffers, a noisy wedding celebration must be going on next door. Comedy and tragedy, you know. Poignant.

So while Ken and Deirdre comically scoured the docks for Tracy's betrothed (it's a long story), the wonderful Raquel (Sarah Lancashire) sat on the stairs and grappled miserably with the temptations of a new life in Kuala Lumpur.

Why Kuala Lumpur, you ask. Well, because it doesn't matter. When soap opera characters go, they evaporate, and the scriptwriters (bless them) can name any fancy destination they choose. Fortunately we are still a long way behind the Americans, in whose soaps one leading character famously went upstairs for some skis three years ago and simply never came back down.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (74066) **7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS** (Ceefax) (18527) **9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA** (Ceefax) (6241559)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (1441066) **9.45 KILROY** (s) (8993240) **10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK** (s) (74882) **11.00 NEWS** (Ceefax) and weather (2786153) **11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW** (s) (4304172) **11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** (s) (6121424)

12.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (4047153)

12.05pm SNOWY RIVER — THE MCGREGOR SAGA (s) (2708714)

12.50 COUNTRY WALKS TO CURIOUS PLACES (17649714)

1.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (68004)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (14306882)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (24217882)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (s) (7627) **2.30 THE TERRACE** (530) **3.00 INCOGNITO** (9462)

3.30 LITTLE BEAR (5064462) **3.55 BANANAMAN** (5882917) **4.00 THE CHIPMUNKS** (5869066) **4.25 JULIA JEKYLL AND HARRIET HYDE** (8258646) **4.40 SMART** (5916172) **5.00 NEWSROUND** (Ceefax) (6407337) **5.10 BYKER GROVE** (Ceefax) (s) (2529337)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (Ceefax) (s) (794530)

6.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (559)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (511)

7.00 WATCHDOG (Ceefax) (s) (1443)

7.30 EASTENDERS Bianca forces Carol into making a decision (Ceefax) (s) (795)

8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL More heart-warming animal tales from the RSPCA's Harmsworth Hospital (Ceefax) (s) (3761)

8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN In the first of a new series, Ben resorts to desperate measures when he begins to miss the football season (Ceefax) (s) (6998)

9.00 POLITICAL BROADCAST: LABOUR PARTY (Ceefax) (s) (697375)

9.05 NEWS (Ceefax) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (120563)

9.35 CHOICE **THE THIN BLUE LINE** In the first of a new series of Ben Elton's police comedy, the staff at Gasforth station are suffering from a crisis of conscience (Ceefax) (s) (673795)

10.05 CHOICE **CROCODILE SHOES** The first of new six-part series about a country singer, starring Jimmy Nail (Ceefax) (s) (189004)

10.55 QUESTION TIME David Dimbleby chairs a topical debate from Nottingham. Around the table tonight are Douglas Hogg, MP, Labour peer Baroness Hollis, writer and comedian Sandi Toksvig and Raj Persaud, consultant psychiatrist and media doctor (Ceefax) (489248)

11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK (r) (Ceefax) (s) (412424)

12.30am FILM: Kill and Pray (1968) with Lou Castel and Mark Damon. Having miraculously escaped the massacre of his family, a young Mexican is taken in by a priest. But he is no ordinary holy man and he teaches the young man to seek revenge. Directed by Carlo Lizzani (741316)

2.15 WEATHER (7160689)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am O U: POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT (5784356) **6.50 GLOBAL FIRMS IN THE INDUSTRIALISING EAST** (9200608) **7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS** (6332998) **7.30 PERILS OF PENELOPE PITSTOP** (4000375) **7.55 BLUE PETER** (r) (Ceefax) (7538269) **8.20 NODDY** (r) (s) (3636608) **8.35 THE RECORD** (6841288) **9.00 DAYTIME ON TWO: THE IT COLLECTION** (1452172) **9.25 THE ART** (6228608) **9.45 WRITING AND PICTURES** (4635284) **10.00 PLAYDAYS** (99288) **10.30 STORYTIME** (3864530) **10.45 THE EXPERIMENTER** (4381004) **11.05 SPACE ARK** (2707646) **11.15 PRACTISING BELIEF** (5323207) **11.35 LANDMARKS** (6557288) **11.55 BELIEF FILE** (6132530) **12.15 HALLO AUS BERLIN** (1745266) **12.30 WORKING LUNCH** (24375) **1.00 LIFESCHOOL** (39748153) **1.25 MAD ABOUT MUSIC** (35040040) **1.45 NUMBERTIME** (14323559) **2.00pm NODDY** (56440153) **2.10 THE FUGITIVE** (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (5740646) **3.00 NEWS 3.05 WESTMINSTER** (Ceefax) (6658066) **3.55 NEWS**

4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (424) **4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK** (s) (608) **5.00 THE OPRAH WINFREY** (Ceefax) (s) (9260172) **5.40 THE SKY AT NIGHT** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (223627)

6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE Sci-fi adventures (Ceefax) (s) (744998)

6.45 QUANTUM LEAP (r) (Ceefax) (s) (969530) **WALES: Assignment 7.30 The Works 8.00 First Resort**

7.30 FIRST SIGHT EAST: Matter of Fact MIDLANDS: Midlands Report NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST: Close Up North SOUTH: South of Westminster (337)

8.00 [illegible] **THE WORKS: THE ACTOR'S CUT** (Ceefax) (s) (8733)

8.30 TOP GEAR Featuring the International Motorcycle Show (Ceefax) (s) (7240)

John Lithgow as Dick (9.00pm)

9.00 3RD ROCK FROM THE SUN Nina needs Dick's birthdate for college records (Ceefax) (s) (8578)

9.30 THE MIND TRAVELLER Oliver Sacks visits a Pacific atoll to study its colour-blind population (Ceefax) (s) (228207)

10.20 10 X 10 (s) (454917)

10.30 POLITICAL BROADCAST: LABOUR

10.35 NEWSNIGHT (Ceefax) (883578)

11.15 LATE REVIEW (s) (450424)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (s) (90979)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: O U: FRANCE IN THE VIEWFINDER (36283) **1.00 IMAGES OVER INDIA** (41301) **1.30 VIRTUAL DEMOCRACY** (24009) **2.00 COMMUNICATION IN VOCATIONAL CONTEXTS** (27370) **4.00 NOW YOU'RE TALKING** (27554)

CHOICE

The Works: The Actor's Cut

BBC2, 8.00pm

Welcome to the world of Richard E. Grant, actor, writer and, on the evidence of this video diary, a man much in need of a holiday. The tall, gaunt star of *Withnail and I* records the highlights and lowlights of a six-month period which starts with the re-release of the cult film, takes in a whirlwind tour of America to promote *Jack and Sarah* and stuffs in a bit of shooting of Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night*. Funny, frenetic and neurotic, Grant fulminates on camera against the tedium of Toronto, the studio bosses who obviously have no faith in the film he is desperately trying to promote and the critic who gave him a mildly bad review. Highlights include joshing with Helena Bonham Carter, taking a dip in Steve Martin's swimming pool with Winona Ryder and getting blotto at the Oscars.

TV Dinners

Channel 4, 8.30

You would think that there was no new angle to be had on the food programme. You would be very wrong. Fresh from boiling up bark in *A Cook on the Wild Side*, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall snares amateur cooks in their homes as they prepare for a special occasion. The six-part series begins in ultra-decadent fashion with the truly jaw-dropping lengths Gordon Perrier (how apt!) and his brother Raymond go to for their dinner party. The pair dream up a themed feast that involves gold-leafed pears and eight different puddings, designed and colour-coordinated to match the chairs. Less camp but equally indulgent is the outdoor paella made by Dave Heyward, who imports live Valencian snails fed on rosemary. Not recommended for the squeamish but definitely on the menu for foodies.

Crocodile Shoes

BBC1, 10.05pm

As Jed Sheppard says of his make-or-break new record, "It's the second album syndrome. You got to show the first one wasn't down to luck." It is a comment which could easily apply to *Jimmy Nail*'s attempt to follow up the success of the first series. The action opens in the heart of Wiltshire where Sheppard is holed up in a mansion trying to bash out the next string of hits. But he is suffering from writer's block — not enough shipyards and allotments to get the creative juices flowing in Wiltshire. Adding to his problems is the death of his dodgy manager, whose body is found floating in the Thames leaving Sheppard as the main suspect. There's still enough Geordie accents to ground the action but it remains to be seen whether the all-singing, all-acting, all-writing Nail can get it right a second time.

The Thin Blue Line

BBC1, 9.35pm

Ben Elton's first series about the trials and tribulations of the Gasforth police station brought little more than moans that it was not a worthy successor to *Blackadder*. True, the comedy owes more to Frankie Howerd than to the Comedy Store, but that is exactly what Elton was after. This is the lightest of light entertainment — *Dixon of Dock Green* in panto. Unfortunately, Elton's love of words has meant that these characters say too much about very little. Tonight's arresting problem centres on the planting of evidence on a nasty drug dealer called Harry the Spike. In case that is a bit much, we are allowed to laugh at PC Kevin Goody (James Dreyfus) who is chronically unable to get through a cross-examination without collapsing in tears. Expect slapstick not satire, and disappointment will not rear its peaked-capped head.

Frances Lass

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1830733)

9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1459085)

9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2268882)

10.00 THE TIME ... THE PLACE (86714)

10.30 THIS MORNING (24277288)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (Teletext) (4043337)

12.30 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (4119207)

12.55 CORONATION STREET (r) (Teletext) (s) (6295040) **2.00 HOME AND AWAY** (Teletext) (s) (57242608) **2.25 CROSS WITS** (Teletext) (s) (57254443) **2.50 VANESSA** (Teletext) (s) (6065733)

3.20 NEWS (Teletext) (4160801)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (4169172)

3.30 THE RIDDLERS (3679462) **3.40 WIZADORA** (7509424) **3.50 THE SYLVESTER AND TWEETY MYSTERIES** (3680578) **4.05 SCOOBY DOO** (9689207) **4.15 NAME THAT TOON!** (5705269) **4.40 OUT OF SIGHT** (4156288)

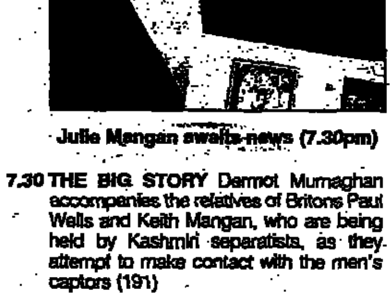
5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7454917)

5.40 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (210153)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (Teletext) (s) (790375)

6.25 HTV NEWS (284191)

7.00 EMMERDALE (Teletext) (s) (6511)



Julie Mangan awaits news (7.30pm)

7.30 THE BIG STORY Dermot Murnaghan accompanies the relatives of Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, who are being held by Kashmiri separatists, as they attempt to make contact with the men's captors (191)

8.00 THE BILL: A WOMAN'S PLACE Can Ackland share a locker room with Cryer and Boyden? (Teletext) (2559)

8.30 IS IT LEGAL? When a computer file reveals there are plans to sack him, Darren plots his revenge (Teletext) (s) (1066)

9.00 THIEF TAKERS The Flying Squad team has to carry out a dangerous undercover operation which pits them against Russian mobsters (Teletext) (s) (3375)

10.00 POLITICAL BROADCAST: LABOUR PARTY (Teletext) (432795)

10.05 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (129559)

10.35 REGIONAL NEWS (886202)

10.45 FILM: See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1989) Comedy with Richard Pryor, Gene Wilder and Joan Severance. Friends Wally and Dave run a news stand in New York, a busy job made more difficult by the fact that Wally is blind and Dave is deaf. The fun starts when they become suspects in a murder inquiry (40190559)

12.40am THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1031467) **1.40 NOT FADE AWAY** (4326776) **2.40 FLUX** (2136912) **3.40 LATE & LOUD** (4638739) **4.30 THE TIME... THE PLACE** (18950) **5.00 HEROES** (60825) **5.30 NEWS** (88134)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (4194998)

1.25 CROSS WITS (39750998)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24221085)

2.20 VANESSA (57246424)

2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (6065733)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7454917)

6.55-7.00 LIFE LINE (538882)

12.40am OASIS — LIVE BY THE SEA (5795370)

1.45 PLANET ROCK PROFILES (78937)

2.15 NOT FADE AWAY (2898028)

3.10 FLUX (9792080)

4.05 JOBFINDER (4084660)

5.20 ASIAN EYE (1323554)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:

12.25pm-12.30 ILLUMINATIONS (4051356)

12.55 EMMERDALE (4194998)

1.25-1.55 CROSS WITS (39750998)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (29904559)

2.25 VANESSA (57245795)

2.55-3.20 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1410849)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7454917)

6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (29620)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 CROSS WITS (4194998)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39750998)

1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (24221085)

2.20 VANESSA (57246424)

2.50-3.20 HOUSEPARTY (6065733)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7454917)

5.37-5.40 THREE MINUTES (402608)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (627)

6.30-7.00 ANYTHING YOU CAN DO (207)

4.30am BEYOND REASON (18950)

5.00 FREESCREEN (60825)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 CROSS WITS (4194998)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39750998)

1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24221085)

2.20 VANESSA (57246424)

2.50-3.20 PERFECTLY PETS (6065733)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7454917)

6.25 ANGLIA WEATHER (943530)

6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (207)

10.45 MARQUEE (944462)

11.15 FIRST TAKE 2 (941375)

11.45 HIGHLANDER (190530)

[illegible]

Starts: 6.35am PRO STARS (9207511) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (21375) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (78608) **9.30 YSGOLION** (626207) **12.00pm HOUSE TO HOUSE** (81172) **12.30 TRUMPTON** (17104240) **12.45 ALFIE ATKINS** (17109795) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (24462) **1.30 THE LIVING SEA** (18714) **2.00 Film: WESTBOUND** (2163627) **3.15 RICKI LAKE** (6069646) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (820) **4.30 RIDE ON** (284) **5.00 5 PUMP** (4917) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (356) **6.00 NEWYDDION 6** (699207) **6.05 HENO** (778153) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (950820) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (357135) **7.25 ROWND PWY NESA'?** (389530) **8.00 CYW HAUL** (3801) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (9608) **9.00 I DOT** (1917) **10.00 THE FRAGILE HEART** (1791379) **11.20 Film: ZARDOZ** (991207) **1.15am DISPATCHES** (9695221)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am PRO STARS (9207511)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (21375)

9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER Cookery (78608)

9.30 SCHOOLS: Middle English 9.45 The Maths Programme 10.05 Scientific Eye 10.25 Geographical Eye 10.45 Le Petit Monde de Pierre 11.00 Cluiche Ceol Is Canan 11.20 Film and Video Showcase 11.40 The Spanish Programme (626207)

12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE (s) (81172)

12.30pm TRUMPTON (r) (17104240)

12.45 ALFIE ATKINS (r) (17109795)

1.00 SESAME STREET (14998)

2.00 THE DINGLES (46611240)

2.05 FILM: The Stars Look Down (b/w, 1939) with Michael Redgrave as a miner's son fighting for miners' rights. Directed by Carol Reed (920172)

4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Teletext) (s) (820) **4.30 COUNTDOWN** (Teletext) (s) (284) **5.00 RICKI LAKE** (Teletext) (s) (5028172) **5.45 ANTON MOSIMANN — NATURALLY** (Ceefax) (584240)

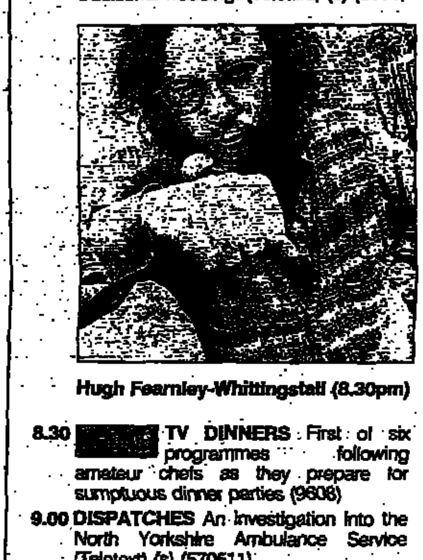
6.00 NEW GAMESMASTER (Ceefax) (s) (269)

6.30 HOLLYOAKS (Ceefax) (s) (849)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Ceefax) (755424)

7.50 THE SLOT (318375)

8.00 DOSH The last of the series offers advice on cutting your tax bill and claiming benefits. Plus, how to reduce the cost of a traditional wedding. (Teletext) (s) (3801)



Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (8.30pm)

8.30 [illegible] **TV DINNERS** First of six programmes following amateur chefs as they prepare for sumptuous dinner parties (9608)

9.00 DISPATCHES An investigation into the North Yorkshire Ambulance Service (Teletext) (s) (570511)

9.45 THE LLOYDS BANK/CHANNEL 4 FILM CHALLENGE: Cad Cam (2/6) A partygoer becomes caught up in the plans of a corrupt policeman (Ceefax) (s) (323288)

10.00 FILM: Ultimate Betrayal (1993) with Henry Czerny as the brutal father of a seemingly perfect family. Directed by Donald Wrye (Teletext) (s) (736207)

11.45 FOUR-MATIONS: Electric Passions (414882)

12.20 MOVIEWATCH (r) (s) (1034554)

12.55 FOUR-MATIONS: Shorts (4516776)

1.35 FILM: Snake Treaty (1988) with Timothy Daly and Genevieve Bujold. Drama about a man returning to his home town and being drawn into a land dispute. Directed by David Greene (980931)

3.25 FILM: Murder by Contract (b/w, 1958) with Vince Edwards. A hitman is hired to murder a female witness who is under police protection. Directed by Irving Lerner (2450912)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (2511530) **7.20** Press Your Luck (2625066) **7.40** Jeopardy! (5503263) **8.10** Hotel (8645207) **9.00** Another World (5423505) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (7944004) **10.40** Real TV (7337379) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (4224356) **12.00** Geraldo (28356) **1.00pm** [illegible] (25627) **3.00** Jenny Jones (54443) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (23578) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6530) **6.00** New Adventures of Superman (47240) **7.00** The Simpsons (4553) **7.30** MASH (9135) **8.00** Sightings (85793) **9.00** Nash Bridges (84795) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (37682) **11.00** New Adventures of Superman (67917) **12.00** Midnight Caller (69775) **1.00am** LAPD (33844) **1.30** Real TV (77221) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (14738)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7986327) **8.00** Police Rescue (6430135) **9.00** [illegible] (3240612) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2329795) **12.00 FILM: Kings of the Sun** (5251912) **2.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (3243319)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Monsieur Verdoux (1947) (82164838) **8.05 Kitty Foyle (1940)** (94663207) **10.00 The Power Within (1994)** (40337) **12.00 Taking Liberty (1994)** (19066) **2.00pm A Perfect Couple (1979)** (35202) **4.00 The Chairman (1969)** (1462) **6.00 The Power Within (1994)** (81041733) **7.40 US Top 10** (153559) **8.00 Milk Money (1994)** (6157007) **9.45 The Movie Show** (577349) **10.15 Darkman II: The Return of Durant (1994)** (303579) **11.55 Above the Rim (1994)** (533578) **1.35am Sisters (1988)** (6726047) **3.05 Benefit of the Doubt (1993)** (1344134) **4.35 Taking Liberty (1994)** (552342190)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Along Came Jones (1945) (50545) **7.30 Don Bluth's Thumbelina (1994)** (5504917) **8.40 Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1987)** (2035733) **10.00 Hudson's Bay (1940)** (71207) **12.00 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947)** (821337) **1.45pm Tekwar: Teklords (1994)** (94286375) **3.20 Sandokan: The TV Movie (1995)** (1152882) **4.40 Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1987)** (7576004) **6.00 Bandit Goes Country (1994)** (83240) **8.00 Not Our Son (1995)** (31085) **10.00 Timecop (1994)** (873337) **11.40 Emmanuelle (1974)** (442801) **1.15am Short Cuts (1993)** (59758134) **4.25 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947)** (19923028)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm A Damsel in Distress (1937) (7356443) **5.45 One-Eyed Jacks (1961)** (93836795) **8.05 The Big Red One (1980)** (73791733) **10.00 The Naked Gun (1988)** (7310207) **11.30 Gandhi (1982)** (26551443) **2.35am Rich Kids (1979)** (3593925) **4.15-5.30 Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd (1952)** (4466355)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

6.00am Mouse Tracks (6823443) **6.25** Quack Attack (6802578) **6.50** Bonkers (6357191) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (9248559) **7.40** Aladdin (2056356) **8.05** Goof Troop (1950578) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (2038337) **8.40** Bonkers (2760085) **9.05** Mouse Tracks (6092240) **9.30** Big Garage (7526424) **9.45** Lamb Chop (403058) **10.15** Muppet Babies (3187240) **10.40** Wonderland (2074533) **11.10** Quack Attack (7059511) **11.40** Umbrella Tree (9260559) **12.10pm** Fraggle Rock (6279191) **12.35** Lamb Chop (3597527) **1.05** Mouse Tracks (69458337) **1.30** Aladdin (61624998) **1.55** Darkwing Duck (6164917) **2.25** Disney (8604578) **3.20** Mouse Tracks (2576269) **3.50** Bonkers (7063240) **4.15** Goof Troop (7293579) **4.35** Darkwing Duck (7803443) **5.00** Aladdin (5684241) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9832269) **5.35** Bonkers (946356) **6.00** [illegible] (7552) **6.30** Blossom (1511) **7.00** Home Improvement (1269) **7.30 FILM: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (29424) **9.30-10.00** Home Improvement (81733)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (98085) **7.30** Wrestling (62298) **8.30** Racing News (15298) **9.00** Sports Centre (99240) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (43559) **10.00** Watersports (22394) **11.00** Futbol Mundial (53694) **11.30** Grass Roots Rugby (92563) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (19004) **12.30pm** Golf: Grand Slam (6287917) **4.30** Inside the PGA Tour (7356) **4.58** Sports Centre (7965337) **5.00** Wrestling (2356) **6.00** Sports Centre (8849) **6.30** Netbusters (2801) **7.00** Live Scottish League Football (90937172) **10.15** Sports Centre (116627) **10.45** Tight Lines (507240) **11.45** Spanish Football League (570356) **1.15am** Sports Centre (563950) **1.45** Scottish League Football (965009) **3.45-4.15** Sports Centre (559757)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Fishing: Tight Lines (4943559) **9.00** And They Walked Away (2453337) **10.30** World of Sailing (3335298) **11.00** British Open Official Film 1974 (8248385) **12.00** Hall of Fame (9904467) **12.30am-1.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (1426639)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 In-Line Skating (25118830) **1.00pm** Coca-Cola Cup Football (99780191) **3.00** Cricket: Sahara Cup (55112337) **5.00** Football League Review (93866735) **6.30** Drag Racing (10731356) **7.00** Sports Centre (36243530) **7.30** World of Sailing (10730240) **8.00** Cricket (38655172) **10.00** Football League Review (55343462) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (99761832)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (57356) **8.30** Motors (62530) **9.30** IndyCar (25065) **11.00** Sportscar (88608) **12.00** Car Racing (51579) **1.00pm** Eurofun (82424) **1.30** Funsports (31714) **2.00** Rally Raid (76375) **3.00** Motorcycling (36907) **4.00** Motorcycling (14462) **5.00** Football (92337) **7.00** Tractor Pulling (42733) **8.00** Live Tennis (33263) **10.00** Car Racing (41004) **11.00** Sailing (15191) **11.30** Tennis (64530) **12.00-12.30am** Slam (69047)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Runway (8740998) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (65363191) **6.45** Our Backyard (77243920) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (2595511) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (6245714) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (4335220) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1587356) **8.30** Runway (1590627) **9.00** Families (1500207) **9.30** Albion Market (5615288) **10.00** Goodbye a Village Part Two (7452601) **10.30** Leave It to Charlie (1593131) **11.00** Love for Lydia (2235040) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1580443) **12.30pm** Surgical Spirit (5619004) **1.00** The Practice (4130676) **1.30** Families (5618375) **2.00** After the War (7453530) **3.00** Leave It to Charlie (7551375) **3.30** Seven up in South Africa Part One (7032882) **4.00** Sam (1868337) **5.00** Love for Lydia (7542627) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (7038066) **6.30** Families (7053646) **7.00** The Army Game (7543356) **7.30** Surgical Spirit (7041530) **8.00** Lady Killers (6083511) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (5463825) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (1451511) **10.00-11.00** Sam (6003462)

From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

Spencer Tracy and Sylvia Sidney in *Fury* (TNT 11.00pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant

From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith

From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health

From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Harold Lloyd (2456424) **5.00** Hollywood (2213356) **6.00** The War in the East (1731337) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Jack the Ripper (4327511)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.

1.00am The Twilight Zone (8935592) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (2810844) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (5913080) **2.30pm** Night Gallery (5932115) **3.00** Friday the 13th (3838912) **3.55-4.00** Quanc (34046370)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (1056849) **9.30** Gardens without Borders Special (3850545) **10.00** Go Fishing (2402998) **10.30** House Style (1045733) **11.00** Homemaker (8101998) **11.30** Craftwise (8102627) **12.00** Julia Child (1036085) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (9050581) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1909004) **1.30** Home Again, with Bob Vila (8484062) **2.00** Furniture to Go (2067337) **2.30** Secret Gardens (8330066) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2079172) **3.30-4.00** This Old House, with Steve and Norm (8335511)

DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8354646) **4.30** Driving Passions (8343530) **5.00** Time Travellers (2061917) **5.30** Jurassica 2 (8334882) **6.00** Wild Things (4105630) **7.00** Next Step (2061153) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (8351559) **8.00** The Professionals (5320172) **9.00** Top Marques 2 (8114462) **9.30** Flightline (5850725) **10.00** Classic Wheels (5310795) **11.00** FDR (4254171) **12.00** The Professionals (1388405) **1.00** High Five (1445689) **1.30-2.00** Lifeboat

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2642627) **7.35** Crossroads (4629882) **8.00** Neighbours (2033849) **8.25** EastEnders (2204714) **9.00** The Bill (1058207) **9.30** One by One (7242172) **10.30** The Sullivans (1047191) **11.00** Softly Softly Task Force (3709066) **12.00** Crossroads (35087066) **12.25pm** Neighbours (35080172) **12.55** EastEnders (3852443) **1.30** Terry and June (6813849) **2.10** A Little Bit of Emery (34726795) **2.20** Brush Strokes (4633559) **3.00** Sale of the Century (2071530) **3.30** The Bill (8344269) **4.00** Howards' Way (8194608) **5.00** EastEnders (1870530) **5.35** Crossroads (3371443) **6.00** Get Some In! (8333153) **6.30** Ever Decreasing Circles (5456898) **7.05** Bob's Full House (5133085) **7.45** Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (3755203) **8.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (8033375) **9.00** The Equalizer (5319068) **10.00** The Bill (6932085) **10.35** The Young Ones (6147172) **11.15** Taggart (6474171) **12.15am** Rowland Rivron Bites the Bullet (8438831) **12.45** FILM: And Now the Screaming Starts (6478844) **2.15** Shopping at Night (8425487)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (6872337) **6.20** Meltdown (6876153) **6.45** Halfway Across the Galaxy (592998) **7.15** Ready or Not (582511) **7.45** California Dreams (581882) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (577887) **8.45** Art Attack (7017917) **9.00** Tiny and Crew (8064917) **9.20** Brum (8044153) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (5394424) **10.00** Robin and Rosie (8111207) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (3729004) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (7228066) **11.00** Dinobabies (49172) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (40801) **12.00** Barney (46172) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (74443) **1.00** Casper and Friends (83424) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (61620172) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (13565004) **2.20** Bump (10485356) **2.40** Mr Benn (9460240) **3.00** Halfway Across the Galaxy (5462) **3.30** Ready or Not (4849) **4.00** California Dreams (3356) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (2240)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (19266) **6.30** Biker Mice (57240) **7.00** Rocko (7508808) **7.15** Hey Arnold (4998356) **7.30** Rugrats (22202) **8.00** Doug (14559) **8.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (40630) **9.00** Carmen Sandiego (97682) **9.30** Wishbone (34801) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (5371288) **10.10** Katie and Orbie (6644646) **10.35** Mr Men (9012337) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (9025801) **11.00** BBC Block (84882) **12.00** Clarissa (17646) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (45917) **1.00** Barbar (95998) **1.30** Katie and Orbie (44288) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (7681) **2.30** BBC Block (18795) **3.30** Aaah! Real Monsters (7397) **4.00** Bruno (9714) **4.30** Rugrats (1262820) **4.45** Doug (1267375) **5.00** Sister Sister (4191) **5.30** Moesha (9578) **6.00** Round the Twist (9191) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (7153)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (1627) **7.30** Benson (6627) **8.00** Due South (31627) **9.00** Almost Perfect (16820) **9.30** Taxi (25153) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (18375) **10.30** Flying Blind (94795) **11.00** Topical Fish (95337) **11.30** Nightstand (91443) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (25115) **1.00** Due South (20931) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (58202) **2.30** Topical Fish (44008) **3.00** Flying Blind (81196) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (68889)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (6905613) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2440620) **2.00** Return of the Saint (2490153) **3.00** The Champions (8100269) **4.00** FILM: Electric Dreams (2077714) **6.00** Joe 90 (8368849) **6.30** Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (8342801) **7.00** The Water Margin (5348578) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (5324998) **9.00** Crime Story (5337462) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Parasite (8192240)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (4292356) **7.00** The Agony Experience (4598733) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (6809085) **8.20** Ken Hom's Chinese Cookery (5256530) **8.55** Turnabout (7623917) **9.35** Call the Doctor (9266836) **10.00** Super Fresco Fabulosous (3327608) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (7129207) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (6898207) **11.55** Brookside (86939284) **12.25pm** Trivial Pursuit (93089462) **12.50** Gabrielle (5496545) **1.40** Rolonda (6591511) **2.30** The Agony Experience (4189714) **3.00** Live at Three (2106563) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (4179066) **4.30** Talkabout (9418646) **5.05** Lingo (92346627) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4182530) **6.00** Bewitched (4189443) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (6376559) **7.05** Brookside (4065443) **7.35** Super Fresco Fabulosous (2089066) **7.40** Trivial Pursuit (9945882) **8.00** General Practice (2524795) **9.00 FILM: Murder: By Reason of Insanity** (18176004) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (7909424) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (4574153)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (7207) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (45462) **6.30** Catchphrase (4085) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (7443) **7.30** Hart to Hart (67269) **8.30** Rising Damp (2998) **9.00** Bergerac (97207) **10.00** Ruth Rendell Mysteries (67066) **11.00** Rising Damp (31153) **11.30** *Evening Shade* (45530) **12.00** Moonlighting (82009) **1.00am** Bergerac (73047) **2.00** Hart to Hart (10641) **3.00** Moonlighting (24931) **4.00** All Together Now (85370) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (26047)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Hit Thi Hit Hai **9.30** Your Zindegi **10.00** Bharat Ek Khoj **11.00** Shakti **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Intezaar **1.00** Hindi Film **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kya Scene Hai **6.00** Punjabi Folk **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Jaal **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** Commander **10.30** Chahre **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 5pm, then TNT films as below.

9.00pm The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (38552085) **11.00 Fury (1936)** (11858817) **12.40am The First of the Few (1942)** (67766573) **2.45-5.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)** (97011738)

[illegible]

ICE SKATING 46
Cousins cuts a familiar dash at British championships

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1996

RUGBY UNION 49
Australians' late reply ends brave Connacht fight

Rangers cast as underdogs

Burns urges Celtic to be local heroes

By Kevin McCarra

WITH its brutal collisions, with its exultation over the winning of even a throw-in, an *Old Firm game offers* feral football. Yet, despite appearances, it may not be muscle and aggression that truly determine the outcome. When *Rangers travel to Celtic Park this evening, the nuances* of temperament are likely to matter more than any show of bravado.

Celtic are at the top of the Bell's *Scottish League premier* division, but, ahead by a margin of one on goal difference, their lead is, at this early point in the season, insubstantial. *If the standings had been determined through* alphabetical order, they could hardly have been less significant. Nevertheless, Celtic's precedence has had its impact at each club.

"It is not necessarily a bad thing that we are behind," Brian Laudrup, the Rangers forward, said slyly. "Now Celtic will find out what it *is* like to be the *hunted rather* than the hunter." It is impossible for the Dane or anyone else to overlook the psychology of the contest. For the home team *tonight, the game is almost a* rite of passage.

Tommy Burns's side can only prove it has attained maturity by defeating Rangers. Without a victory in the last seven Old Firm fixtures, Celtic have so far been unable to struggle across that *threshhold. The manager* argues that there is no festering sense of inadequacy, since his side has at least played well in a few of those games.

Cunningly. Burns also floats the idea that Rangers' run of success against Celtic could itself have become a form of psychological burden. In any case, he cannot accept *that there is any excuse for an* ambitious footballer to be daunted by an Old Firm match. "You shouldn't fear the *nervous tension,"* Burns said, "because your career will be over all too soon, anyway. It's a great stage, a great test of your fortitude, of how far you *will push yourself for the team and the supporters. If you win,* it's a fantastic feeling. That really is living."

Addison alights 48
Striking differences 48
McFarland's task 48

The hope and the apprehension are greater now, though, *than they were when Burns* was a player. Rangers' attempt, this season, to equal Celtic's record of nine successive championships has increased the frenzy of an already hysterical fixture. Walter Smith, the Ibrox manager, almost finds comedy in *the public reaction.*

"There was extra hype for the first Old Firm game of the season," he noted. "It's worse for this second one and it'll be *worse still for the third.* Eventually, we'll blow each other up." Given the volatile circumstances, Smith would be grateful for the soothing presence of Andy Goram this evening.

The goalkeeper has had a hip injury and the Rangers manager dutifully notes the long-term damage that might be done by a premature return *to action, but the temptation of* fielding Goram must be hard to resist. With a series of remarkable saves last season, he came close to filling the minds of Celtic players with a *sense of futility when they* tried to beat him.

Burns, for his part, must be toying with the idea of including Jorge Cadete, even if he *has been missing* since damaging a *hamstring,* against SV Hamburg, on September 24. The Portugal forward has not yet appeared in an Old Firm game, but his pace and vitality *seem to qualify him* for the conflict. Yesterday, however, Burns insisted that Cadete was not ready to be anything more than a substitute.

If the manager abides by *that judgment he will do so* only with sharp regret, for he and Smith are each in need of a talisman. In Paul Gascoigne, Rangers possess just such a figure. The English*man has been influential in* those seven unbeaten meetings with Celtic and Smith was able to brush aside all the tedious inquiries about the player's mood.

"Old Firm games have *not* been a problem for Gascoigne," Smith said. Celtic have still to show that they possess a comparable force in their side. Pierre van Hooijdonk *will play* and Andreas Thom may also take part, but it is a newer signing, Paolo di Canio, who seems, after Lazio, Juventus, Napoli and AC Milan, to be relishing life at a club where *no one* overshadows him.

He has thrived on Celtic's dependence and, in the Old Firm games, the players who are *stimulated by an intimidating* fixture are precious. Laudrup, when asked about the significance of Gascoigne, gave a proud reply that summed up the outlook required: *"I don't need anyone to inspire me. I inspire myself."*

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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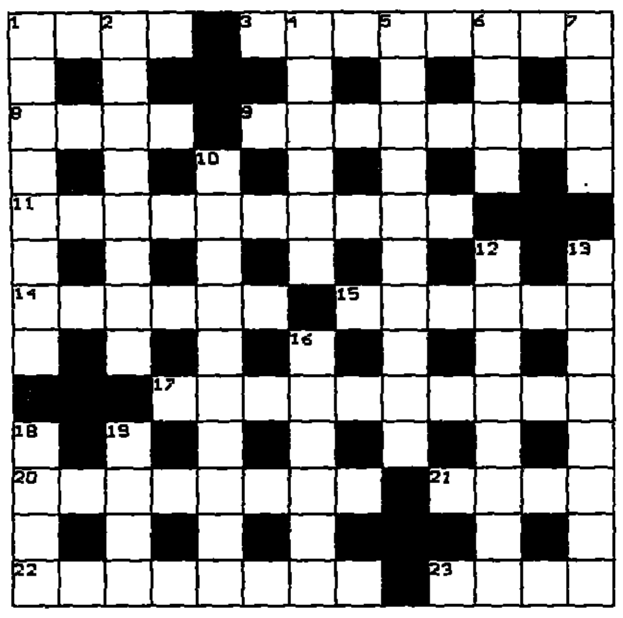

ACROSS
1 (Consort) string instrument (4)
3 Lines read across and down (8)
8 A visionary (4)
9 Clothes cupboard (8)
11 Everyday language (10)
14 Inequitable (6)
15 Give aid (6)
17 One-off poll (2-8)
20 Quarantined (8)
21 Airborne soldier (4)
22 Forsaken, wretched (8)
23 Dispatch (4)

DOWN
1 Volcano near Naples (8)
2 Play trump on trump (8)
4 Hired applauders (6)
5 Mutual-favour system (3,4,3)
6 Seized; a Hobbit family (4)
7 Music-pitch symbol (4)
10 Double partition with gap (6,4)
12 Make less harsh (8)
13 Norm: flag (8)
16 Customer of eg lawyer (6)
18 Clement (4)
19 Stud: a superior (4)

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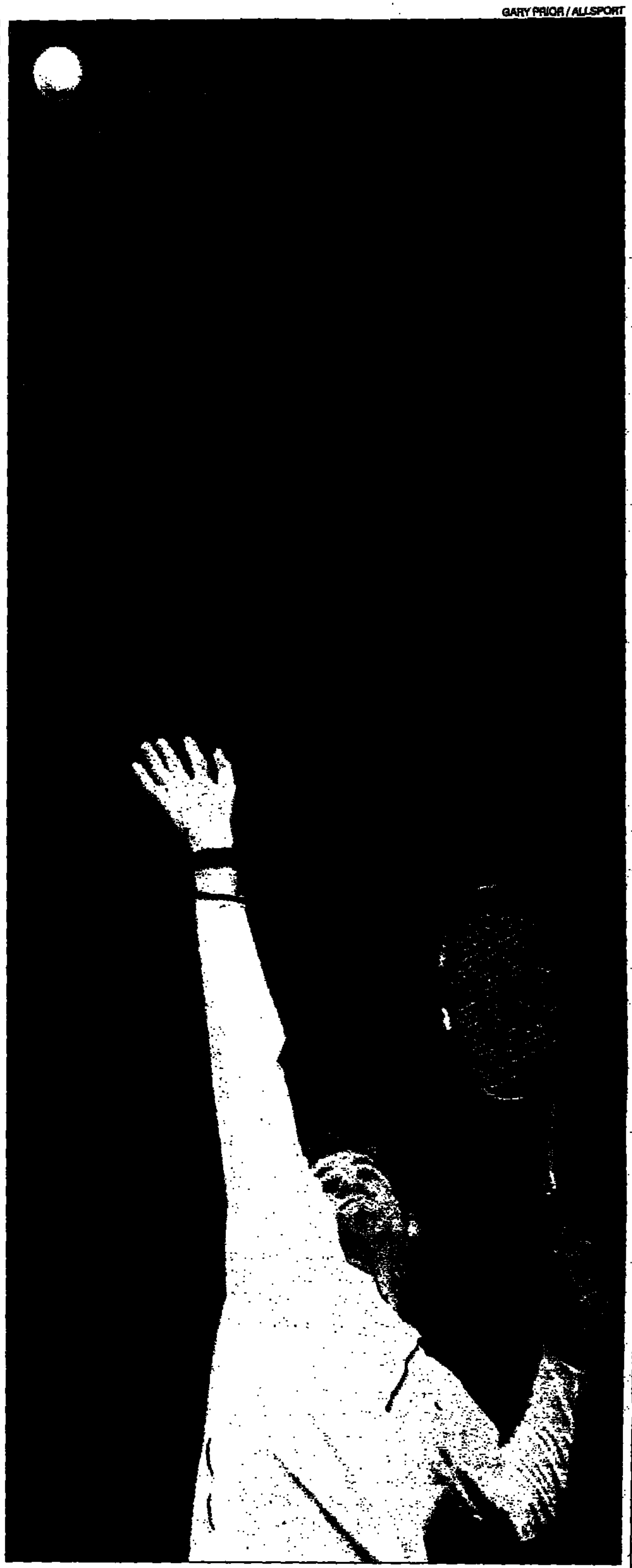
SOLUTION TO NO 938

ACROSS: 6 Charade 7 Lotus 9 Bible 10 Ikebana 11 Olive branch 14 Double-edged 17 Avenged 19 Ravel 21 Decoy 22 Rudyard

DOWN: 1 Barb 2 Materiel 3 Revise 4 Glue 5 Strained 6 Cuba 8 Swathe 11 Opulence 12 Rag trade 13 Edward 15 Endure 16 Slid 18 Goya 20 Veal



GARY PRIOR / ALLSPORT

Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 2, served up little to excite the spectators at *the national tennis championships in Telford yesterday*, but was still too strong for James Fox, ranked No 16, *whom he beat in straight sets*. Report, page 46

Injured Allenby plans to return in Sydney

By Our Sports Staff

ROBERT ALLENBY confirmed yesterday he would attempt to take on Greg Norman, Tiger Woods and many more of the world's leading golfers in next week's Australian Open *in Sydney*, eight weeks after fracturing his sternum.

Allenby was heartened to feel no pain after taking *his first serious swings* since being injured in a car crash in Spain. Under the supervision of his coach, Steve Bann, Allenby hit 40 balls in practice and said *he felt ready to* go ahead.

Allenby, 25, can hardly be expected to immediately recapture the form that won him three events this year on the *European Tour*, in which he finished third in the order of merit.

He plans to play in a pro-am next Tuesday and, "all being well," *intends to confirm his* place in a tournament which he won two years ago at Royal Sydney and went close to winning as an amateur in 1991.

Three weeks ago, Allenby made one gentle quarter-swing on the 1st tee before withdrawing from the Volvo Masters in Valderrama. He had been forced to fly to Europe because he had to tee-off to qualify for the sponsor's end-of-season season bonus payment. This ensured his top three finish in the order of merit, which is likely to gain *him entry to the Masters next* April.

In Australia this weekend, Laura Davies will be aiming for her tenth title of the year when she takes part in the *Women's Masters at the Royal* Pines course in Queensland. The powerful British player, who won the Itoen Classic in Japan last week, has had four victories on the US LPGA tour, three in Europe and two in Japan, as well as winning the US LPGA Skins Game.

Davies won the Australian tournament in 1993 and 1994 and finished third last year *behind Annika Sorenstam*, of Sweden, who is not defending her title.

Her rivals include former champions in Jane Geddes, of the United States, and Jane *Crafter, of Australia*, as well as Karrie Webb, *the Australian* who is second on the US LPGA money list, behind Davies, in her rookie year.

Demand by clubs puts peace talks firmly back in limbo

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

TALKS between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) broke *down yet again yesterday*. The clubs, aware of the financial difficulties facing at least half of their 24 members, have appealed for the right *to present their case* to the union's full committee as soon as possible.

The clubs discussed a revised proposal from the RFU at *Northampton*, which included a new offer to underpin the clubs financially over the next two seasons and two places on a new RFU management structure. They were *then joined by the union's* four-man negotiating team to clarify points at issue, but found themselves yet again at an impasse.

"We *now feel it is absolutely* essential we are given the opportunity — which we have extended to the union twice — for our negotiating team to present directly to all the members of the RFU committee," Kim Deshayes, the Epruc chief executive, said. The committee is due to meet a week tomorrow.

The breakdown may also prejudice the position of the England *squad, which* gathered for training at Bisham Abbey yesterday before the first international of the season, against Italy on November 23. Phil de Glanville, the *new captain, said that playing* contracts had been discussed with RFU officials and lawyers, but that progress depended on events at Northampton.

"I hope the England *squad* will be clear about their position by the start of next week, at least as far as the games up to Christmas are concerned," de Glanville said.

The players are understood to have received from their employers, the clubs, a short-term contract covering the games against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina, which they would dearly like extended to cover the five nations' championship and the overseas summer games in Australia and Argentina. That prospect, however, now seems remote.

Australia recover, page 49
Unsung Samoans, page 49

Catalans use football as route to achieve their ultimate goal

Tunku Varadarajan

on a region's fight

for recognition

through sport

SPAIN'S Catalan nationalists *have taken their battle for* autonomy to the football terraces this week, demanding a separate team for Catalonia — just like Scotland, Wales, or *Northern Ireland — in time* for the World Cup finals of 2002.

Although highly unlikely to succeed in the short term, the demand is the most populist expression of Catalan "separateness" to *date*. Speaking on *behalf of his party recently*, Ricard Burballa, a *senior* Catalan nationalist member of parliament, declared that "a football team for Catalonia, which takes part in international competitions, can be delayed no longer".

Señor Burballa said: "Scot*land and Wales can field their* own football teams in the World Cup. The Danish dependent territory of the Faeroe Islands can compete in its own right and has even played against Spain. I do not see why Catalonia should not *have its own side, with its own flag and national anthem.* We must look at these matters objectively. There should be no taboos against a Catalan team."

Predictably, the Spanish Secretary of State for Sports, *Pedro Antonio Martin*, *described the Catalan demands* as "inopportune and unnecessary". Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the intemperate chief spokesman for the Government in Madrid, rubbished *the idea of a Catalonia team* as *"utter, risible nonsense"*.

Inevitably, he provoked the ire of no less a figure than Jordi Pujol, the heavyweight Catalan premier, who rumbled *an ominous "we shall* soon see who is talking nonsense" in response.

The matter, of course, is far from simple. The British nations field teams for *historical reasons, since their existence* predates Fifa, the game's international governing body. The Faeroe Islands play because the Danish Football Association has given its *permission*.

Under Fifa rules, a Catalonia *team* would need the consent of the Spanish football authorities, something it is highly unlikely to get. Besides, there would need to be a separate Catalan football league, a prospect *that* rich *teams such as Barcelona* would *hardly* relish.

Nonetheless, observers expect that the Catalan premier will soon raise the matter of a "Catalonia Eleven" formally with the Spanish Government. Such a team, if it *materialises*, would *initially* be *unimpressive, boasting* only Guardiola and Sergi from the present Spain side — and possibly Nadal, although he insists that he is Majorcan.

However, as a Catalan nationalist politician put it *recently*: "Who cares *how* we do! At *least* it will be our team. That would be a priceless gain for the Catalan nation."

Uefa investigates match-fixing claim

THE Romanian referee at the centre of allegations of match-fixing against Aberdeen 12 years ago, denied any involvement yesterday. Uefa, the governing body of European football, confirmed that it had *asked the Portuguese Football Association to investigate allegations that* Fernando Barata, the former director of a Portuguese club, acted as go-between for FC Porto in a bribery attempt before the match, a European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final. *Ioan Igna, the referee said to be implicated*, insisted: "I could not possibly have known this Barata."

Emerson expected to return

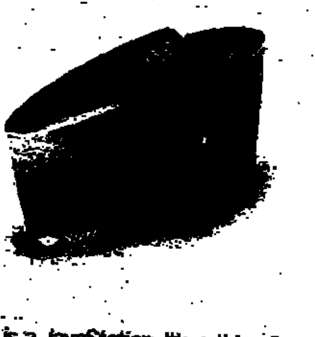
EMERSON, the *Middlesbrough midfield player*, will be back on Teesside for training today, according to his club and Gianni Paladini, his agent in England.

Emerson, the subject of much transfer speculation, failed to return from a holiday in his native Brazil yesterday, but Dave Allan, a Middlesbrough spokesman, said: "We arranged Emerson's flight back *from Brazil* and are confident he will be here."

Bryan Robson, the manager of the FA Carling Premiership club, said that Emerson must honour his four-year contract. "Emerson will not be leaving the club," *Robson said*. "In *fact, no one is leaving unless I decide it is in our best* interests."

The threat of a strike by Nationwide League players is expected to be officially ended today. The Professional Footballers' Association is thought *to have agreed a deal with the Football League* that will see it being given £1.2 million a year for the next five years.

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, has been fined £500 for comments made to *Martin Bodenham*, the referee, after their Coca-Cola Cup second-round tie against Wimbledon at Fratton Park on September 25.



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Neo-Nazis fight to take over extremist publishing empire

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A POWER struggle has erupted among Europe's neo-Nazis as shadowy businessmen fight to fill the vacuum left by Gary Lauck, the jailed right-wing American publisher.

The strongest claim to be the new godfather of right-wing extremism now comes from Ernst Zündel, a German Canadian who has bought air time on Russian radio stations to transmit anti-Semitic propaganda to Germany.

The 57-year-old businessman, who normally lives in Toronto and who made his fortune with property deals, runs the biggest neo-Nazi mail order company in Europe, issues regular newsletters to sympathisers and is using the Internet to spread his views on National Socialism and the "worldwide Jewish conspiracy".

The Internet has reduced Herr Zündel's dependence on smuggling banned pamphlets into Germany and has put him in a stronger position than Mr Lauck, the so-called Führer of the Farmbelt, who was jailed in Germany for four years last August. His American-based publishing empire, including a newsletter, *National Socialist Battle Cry*, dominated the German neo-Nazi market for many years but was dealt a heavy blow by Mr Lauck's arrest.

Now Herr Zündel, still a German citizen, is making the running. His move to use an impoverished medium-wave radio station in Kaliningrad sent alarm bells ringing in Germany. The hour-long broadcasts — *Here is the German Voice of Freedom* — were sent on 1386kHz medium wave after the normal Voice of Russia German service transmissions.

The programmes were mainly devoted to reading out chunks from the works of right-wing historians doubting that the Holocaust took place. It is illegal to transmit or publish such sentiments in Germany. The Russian authorities have now halted the broadcasting, but Herr Zündel is negotiating with other radio stations in Ukraine and Poland.

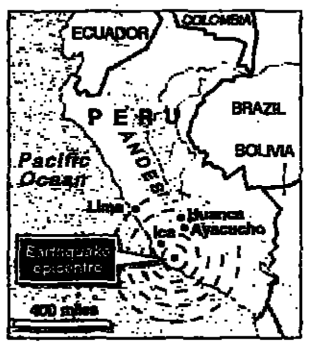
Herr Zündel is constantly searching for a radio outlet — in 1993 he broadcast from stations in New Orleans and Nashville — but Russia remains his favourite propaganda base. The reason is not merely technical, though reception of Russian broadcasts is good in Germany. It is also because the post-communist states along the Baltic coastline are an ideological target for far-right Germans who want somehow to snatch back north-east Prussia. Herr Zündel and a wide range of other neo-Nazi groups have been trying to encourage — with money and propaganda — the resettlement of ethnic Germans from different parts of Russia to the Baltic coast. This aim underpins the contacts between Gerhard Frey, the right-wing publisher, who is leader of the still-legal German People's Union, and Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian ultra-nationalist. Joachim Siegirist, the German far-right politician, has also been active in Latvian politics.

Herr Zündel has a number of neo-Nazi media rivals. An Austrian neo-Nazi publisher, Walter Ochensberger, who served a short sentence in Germany, is again turning out extremist brochures from Morocco, out of reach of German law. Another Austrian neo-Nazi, Gerd Honsik, also in Spain, is turning out leaflets for German consumption. Hans Heinz Schmidt, an American of German origin, was detained in Germany last year for printing racist publications, but jumped bail and is believed to be in the United States once more.

MANUEL LLANOS/REUTER

A cyclist in the southern Peruvian town of Nazca yesterday surveys housing damaged by the powerful quake

Miners trapped by earthquake in Peru



FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NAZCA, PERU

AT LEAST 40 gold miners were trapped underground yesterday at a mine high in the Andes after a powerful earthquake struck Peru's southern coast, killing 15 people and injuring up to 700.

The earthquake, which measured 6.4 on the Richter scale, struck at midday on Tuesday, damaging homes and buildings in Nazca, 235 miles southeast of Lima.

An army convoy sent to assist the trapped miners, whose condition is not known, had not reached the site by dawn yesterday because the access road was blocked by cracks and landslides.

Dr Fermín Cáceres, director of Nazca Hospital, said most of the injured were children and the elderly, hurt when walls and roofs collapsed. At least two schools were damaged. Streets were blocked with rubble and in two of the city's areas, half the homes — mostly simple adobe structures — were damaged.

Doris Flores, who fled her home with her family, said: "We had hardly got out when the doorway collapsed. As we were running, the walls from other houses were falling down around us."

WORLD SUMMARY

Child sex charge dropped

Sydney: A former Australian diplomat was yesterday cleared of a child sex offence allegedly committed while he was Ambassador in Phnom Penh (Roger Maynard writes).

John Holloway was one of the first people to be charged under a recently-introduced law which provides for Australians to be prosecuted for sexual offences committed outside their own country.

But after an eight-day hearing the magistrate ruled that the evidence provided by a Cambodian teenager, who was flown to Canberra to testify, was "for all intents and purposes worthless" because he said the youth had given three different versions of his first alleged sexual encounter with Mr Holloway.

Judges reject Marcos appeal

Manila: A Philippines court rejected an appeal by Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady, against a 1993 ruling sentencing her to 18 years in jail for corruption. The three judges voted unanimously to dismiss "for lack of merit" her motion for reconsideration. Mrs Marcos, 67, may now appeal to the Supreme Court, whose verdict is final. *(Reuter)*

Spain angered by Rock visit

Madrid: Spain has complained to the European Commission over what it called the "undercover and illegal" visit to Gibraltar by Anita Gradin, the commissioner responsible for immigration, home and judicial affairs who was privately investigating allegations of heavy-handed border controls.

Fire razes first Murdoch base

Adelaide: The building here from which Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, launched his business empire 40 years ago, was destroyed by fire. The art deco-style building had been vacant for some years. *(Reuter)*

12 murdered in Algerian village

Paris: Between 20 and 25 men killed 12 Algerians, including three children, in a village south of Algiers. The killings took place two weeks before a referendum on constitutional changes which include the banning of political parties based on religion. *(Reuter)*

Holocaust bank report 'pathetic'

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

JEWISH organisations yesterday reacted with anger and disappointment to a first report on the attempts by Swiss banks to track down unclaimed accounts for the heirs of Holocaust victims.

Hanspeter Häni, Switzerland's banking ombudsman, announced that investigation of dormant Swiss bank accounts had disclosed five with deposits of £5,500 belonging to Nazi victims.

"We expected more," Thomas Lyssy, a spokesman for the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, said. The World Jewish Congress, a constant critic of the ombudsman, earlier described the outcome as "pathetic". However, Mr Lyssy declined to blame Mr Häni.

Jewish groups hope that a separate independent panel will make a closer examination. "If we want to have a climate of confidence, checks by outside auditors are essential," Mr Lyssy said.

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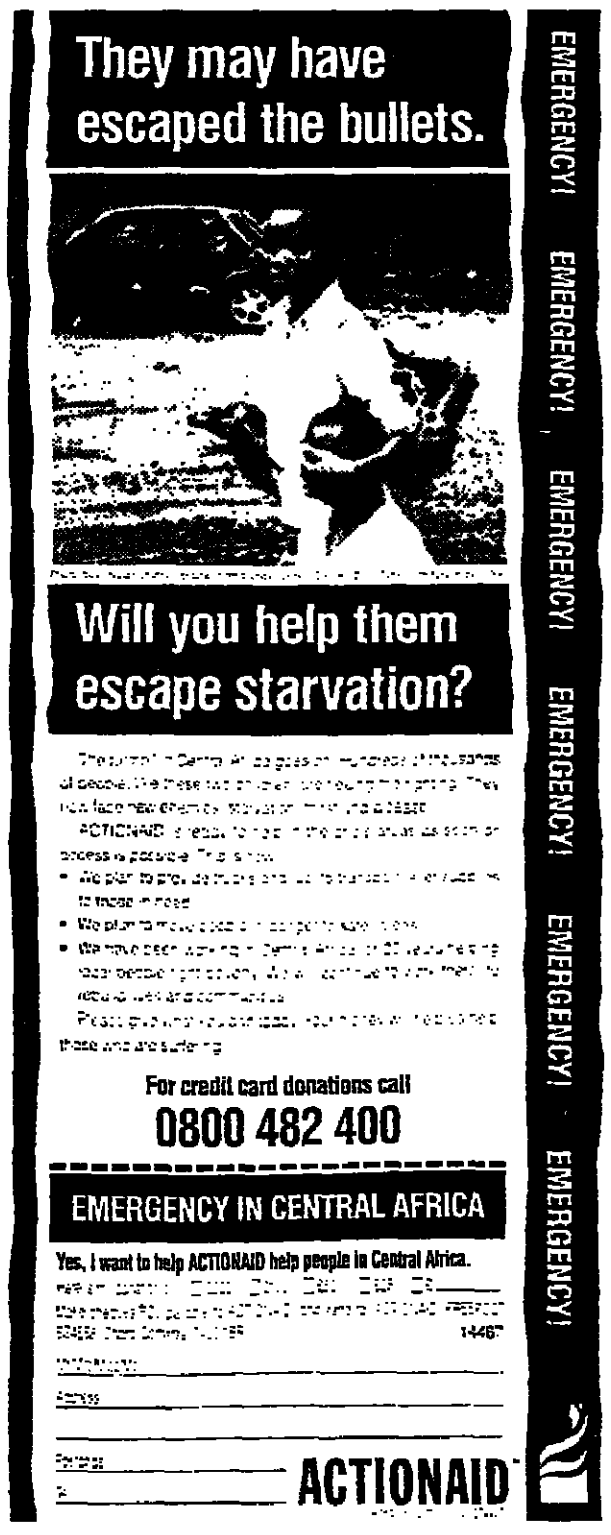
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Nations vow to reduce starvation by half in 20 years

FROM RICHARD OWEN
AND FRANCESCO BONGARRA
IN ROME

THE United Nations World Food Summit yesterday vowed to fight famine, halving the number of hungry and malnourished people within 20 years, but was overshadowed by the more immediate crisis in Zaire, which has been forced on to the agenda. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, issued an emotional plea for "collective help" for more than a million refugees "facing certain death" in eastern Zaire.

The five-day summit is being attended by 194 nations, but only 50 are repesented by heads of state or government. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which is hosting the meeting at its palatial headquarters in Rome, had hoped for at least 100. Few Western leaders are attending, apart from Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister.

The summit, the culmination of two and a half years' preparation, has been marked by what *Corriere della Sera* called "organisational chaos and Levantine confusion".

Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, was elected chairman, with President Castro of Cuba, who is expected to arrive today, as one of six deputies. Señor Castro is due to meet the Pope, paving the way for a papal visit to Havana. In an apparent nod to Cuba, the Pope, who opened the summit, criticised "trade embargoes imposed without sufficient reasoning".

The gathering adopted a declaration deploring the use of food "as an instrument for political and economic pressure" and enshrining "the right of everyone to access to safe and nutritious food". It undertook to halve the number of hungry people from the present 840 million by 2015. FAO officials said that some delegates had submitted "written reservations" but gave no details.

Zaire was not on the summit agenda, but is to be addressed today. Dr Boutros Ghali said: "From this platform, from this Eternal City, I make a solemn appeal to peoples and states to take part — all of them — in the collective action we will undertake in the Great Lakes region to help men, women and children who have lost everything and who face certain death unless they receive immediate assistance."

Clearly angered by suggestions that the summit was a "talking shop" organised by an overfed UN bureaucracy, Jacques Diouf, the FAO Director-General, said the agency's budget was "less than what nine developed countries spend on dog and cat food in six days, and less than 5 per cent of what the inhabitants of just one developed country spend on slimming products every year."

Leading article, page 23

Seventies dream of world with no hunger destroyed by conflict

BY RICHARD OWEN

COMMENTARY

OFFICIALS at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) do not much like to be reminded of the last United Nations food summit 22 years ago, when Henry Kissinger rose to his feet and vowed with a rhetorical flourish that world hunger would be eradicted "within ten years".

For Kay Killingsworth, the American running this summit as the organisation's Secretary-General, the 1974 vow was "laudable but Utopian". The right to "food security", as UN jargon has it, is a "national responsibility", she says, but with world bodies, aid agencies and private enterprise helping governments to feed their own people.

There are some signs in other words that some bureaucrats at the FAO, a vast and pampered UN agency which occupies Mussolini's former Colonial Africa Ministry near the Colosseum, realise the rhetoric of the 1970s is outdated. Although Zaire is a prime example of the plight of the starving, it also illustrates the fact that — as Dan Glickman, the US Agriculture Secretary, pointed out yesterday — war and ethnic or civil strife is the "immediate cause of hunger and malnutrition" in much of the Third World.

The green revolution has trebled grain and rice yields in Asia, and many of the dire predictions of 1974 remain unfulfilled. "The market has a way of responding to demand," one trade expert said. "The more mouths there are to feed, the more the food companies want to fill them."

Mr Glickman said the United States was "the leading supplier of food to the world, as well as food aid ... Domestic US market reforms have unleashed the full potential of American agriculture. Our farmers now plant for world demand."

The FAO repeats the UN orthodoxy that the world will have to produce 75 per cent more food over the next three decades to feed the world population as it rises inexorably from nearly six billion to about nine billion. Partly because China, the world's most populous country, is slowly shifting from a rice culture to a grain culture, "world grain stocks have dwindled to dangerously low levels, highlighting the fragility of food supplies". Wheat yields have risen in the West but remain static in the Third World.

The FAO also admits, however, that the world produces enough to ensure "adequate food" for all (at 2,700 calories a person a day). The percentage of chronically undernourished people has been cut to a fifth of the global population, partly thanks to the green revolution, with increased crop yields, boosted by fertilisers, pesticides and improved irrigation.

Some areas have slid backwards: sub-Saharan Africa, for example "produces less food per person than it did 30 years ago", and the number of undernourished people has doubled to 200 million since 1970. The FAO sees a future of "more intensive agriculture and increased yields", coupled with food aid.

For the aid agencies, the fault lies partly with war and civil strife, fuelled by the Western arms industry, but mainly with International Monetary Fund and World Bank loans, which encourage Third World debt. Lester Brown, the head of WorldWatch, the environmental pressure group, identifies population growth as the real issue, particularly in a more affluent Asia. The FAO is "overstating food production and misleading political leaders", Mr Brown said. "For the first time in history the oceanic fish catch and the grain harvest per person are both declining. In each of the past three years, we consumed more than we produced, drawing on depleted grain stocks which will not be rebuilt." Since the green revolution was unlikely to be repeated, and asking the affluent to eat less was "not politically feasible", the only answer was birth control.

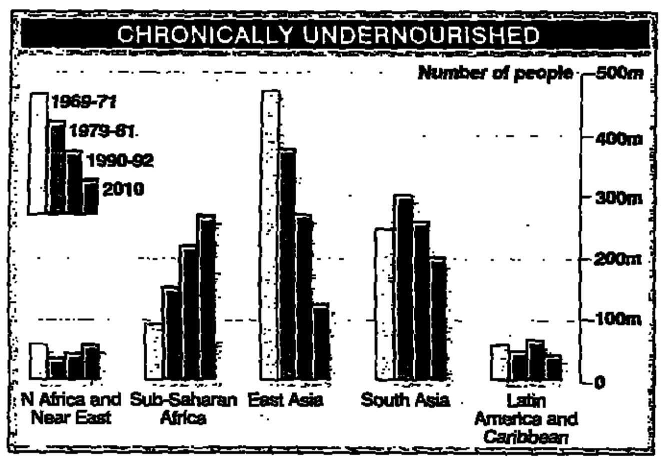
The summit's opening day was marked by controversy over whether chronic hunger could be alleviated by population control. In an echo of the dispute between the Vatican and the United States at the Cairo population conference two years ago, the Pope said attempts to pin the blame for famine on over-population were sophistry. "Demography alone cannot explain inadequate distribution of food resources," the Pope declared. "We must put aside the sophist view that when there are many, one is condemned to be poor."

Many at the FAO and the aid agencies are stuck in a 1970s rut, while the Americans have arrived in Rome with a more robust message from the Clinton Administration: if the Kissingeresque utopianism of the 1970s is behind us, then the solution is only partly "voluntary" birth control, and only partly food aid.

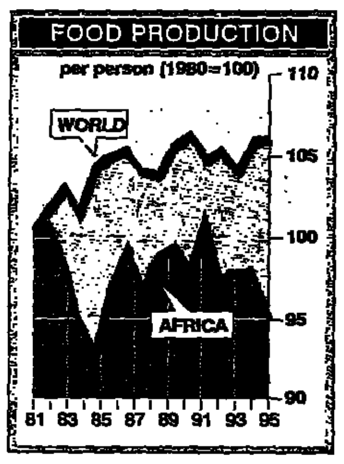
Mr Glickman said "rapid population growth" was a "contributing factor" to famine along with civil strife, but avoided a direct clash with the Vatican. He said America was "monitoring" rising grain consumption in Asia, especially China.

According to the Americans, prosperous free traders, not aid agencies, will create the grain reserve the world needs for future food security.

CHRONICALLY UNDERNOURISHED



FOOD PRODUCTION



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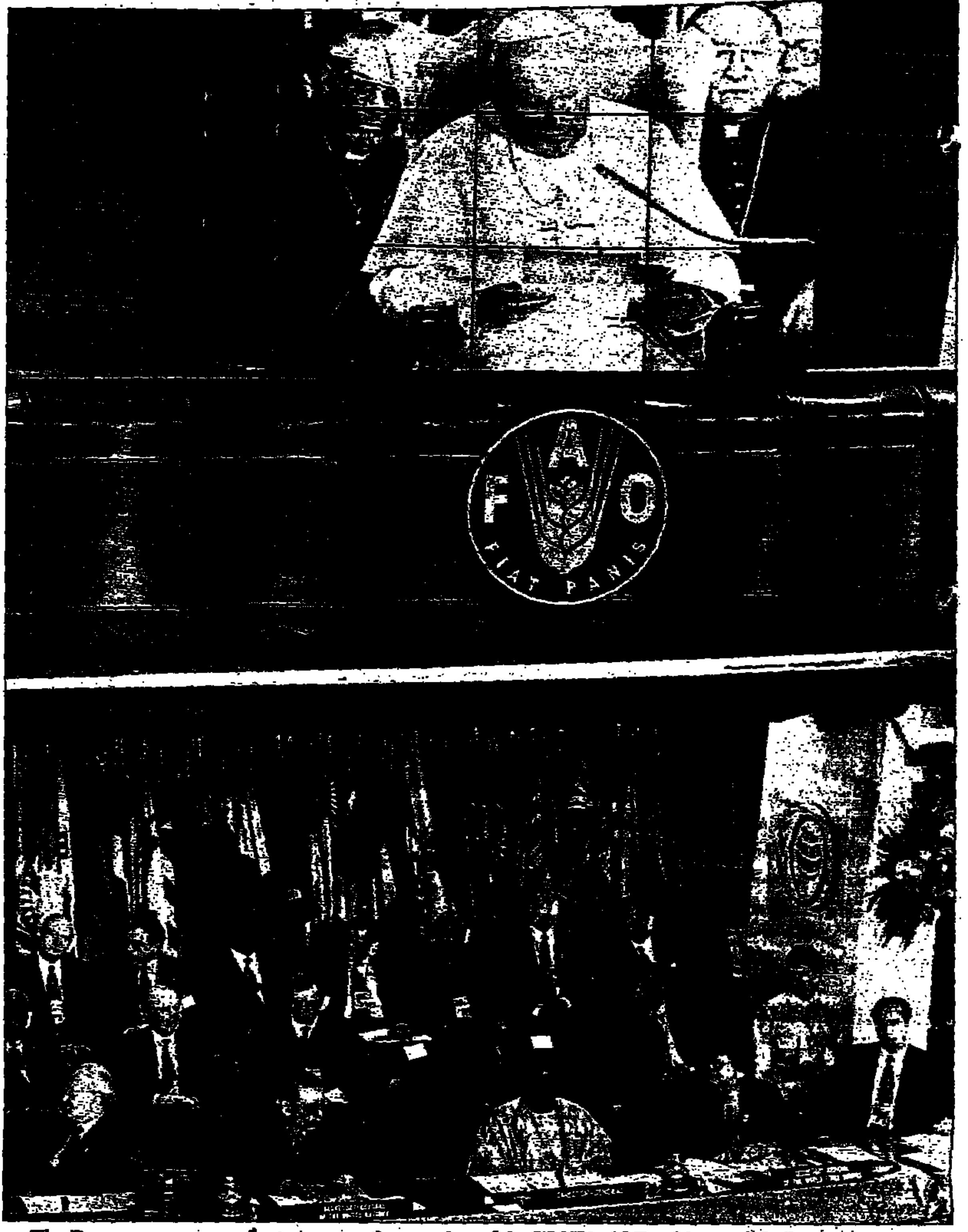
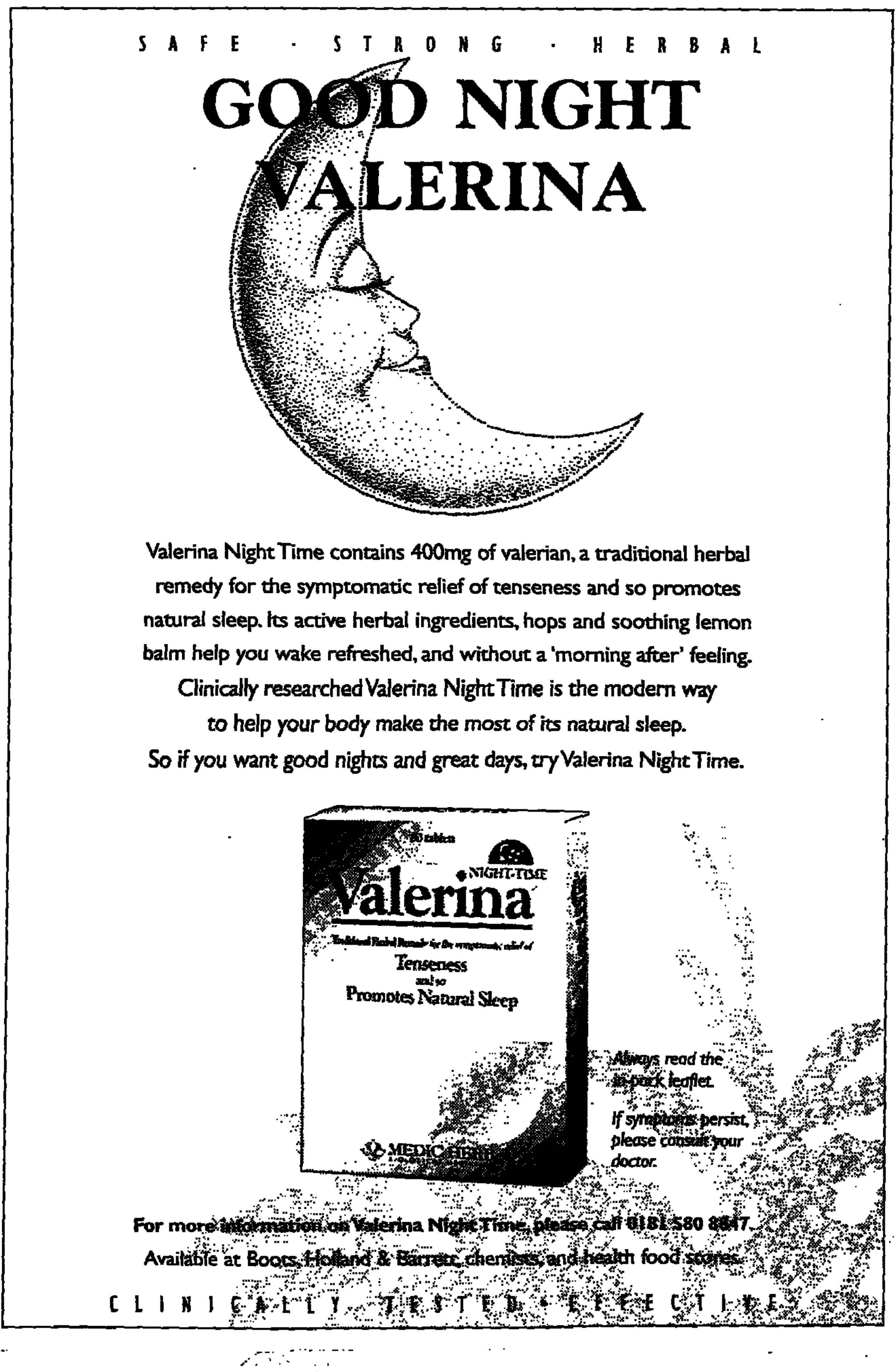

The Pope appears on a giant screen at the opening of the UN World Food Summit in Rome yesterday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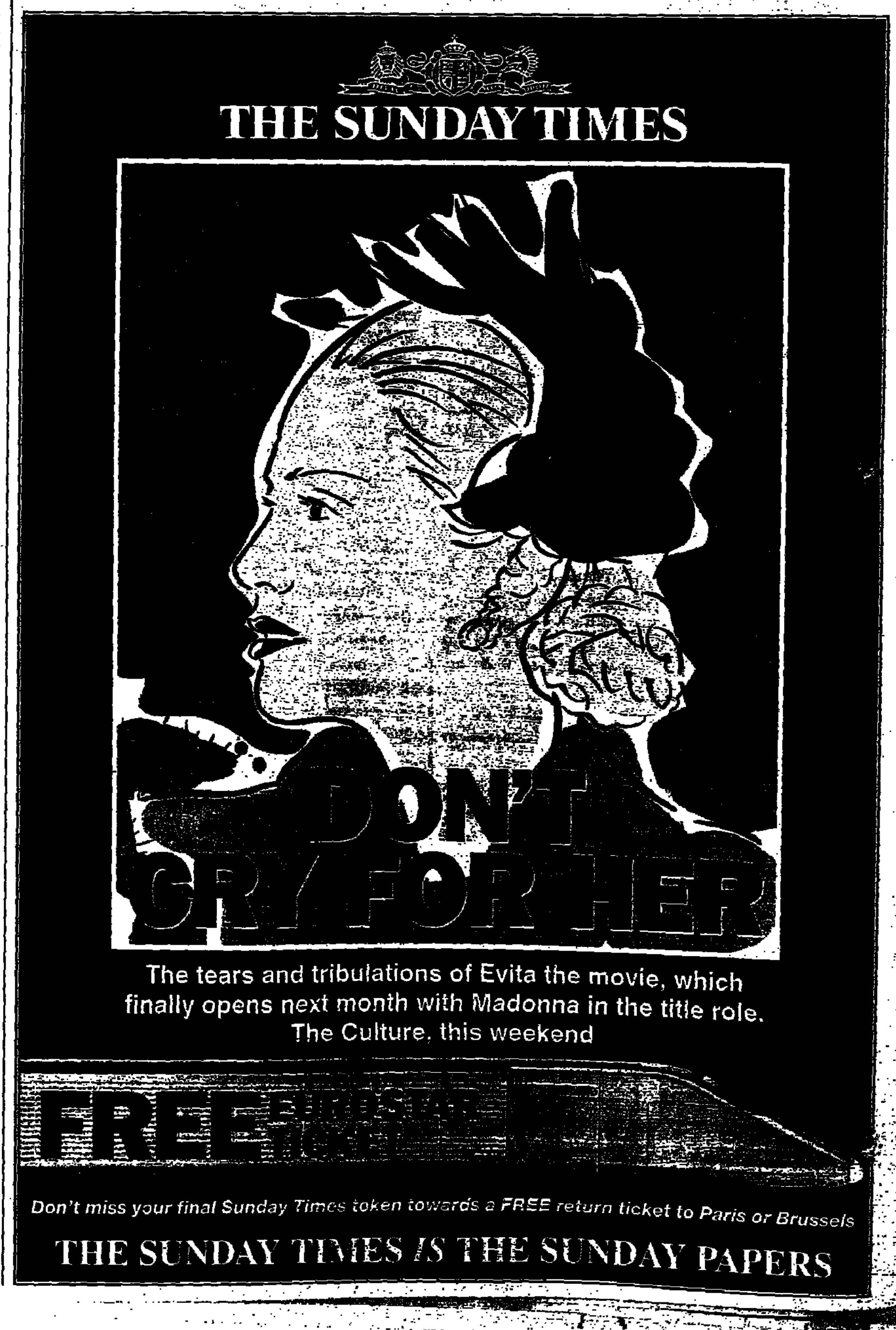
THE SUNDAY TIMES

The tears and tribulations of Evita the movie, which finally opens next month with Madonna in the title role.
The Culture, this weekend

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THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Minister tried to block Paris sleaze inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Toubon: ordered helicopter search

THE French Government sent a helicopter to scour the Himalayas for a French magistrate on holiday after his rebellious deputy opened a politically sensitive judicial investigation into the wife of the Paris Mayor.

Jacques Toubon, the French Justice Minister, ordered diplomats in Nepal to charter a helicopter in an attempt to locate Laurent Davenas, a senior prosecutor, and order him back to Paris to block the inquiry, the weekly magazine *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported yesterday.

The allegations have raised fresh doubts over the independence of the French judiciary and suggest that the Government is prepared to go to extraordinary lengths to quash damaging corruption investigations.

The case concerns long-running suspicions that Xavière Tiberi, the wife of Jean Tiberi, was massively overpaid from public funds for producing a short advisory brief for a local council.

Judge Davenas, who has a reputation for treating political scandal cases with "sensitivity", disagreed with his deputy, Hubert Dujardin, over whether the allegations against Mme Tiberi were serious enough to merit a full investigation. Judge Dujardin has since said he believed Judge Davenas would bury the case and so waited until his boss was away trekking in the Himalayas before launching an investigation.

The inquiry may lead to Mme Tiberi being placed under formal investigation and could result in prosecution. When Judge Dujardin's intention to launch an investigation became clear at the end of last month, the Justice Ministry, "in a panic", decided that Judge Davenas must be recalled from holiday to rein in his deputy, according to *Le Canard*.

On November 1, France's Ambassador in Kathmandu was reportedly instructed to find the judge. A helicopter was chartered but after three hours of fruitless searching, at a cost of £2,000 to the French taxpayer, the hunt was abandoned.

The messages eventually reached Judge Davenas in the mountains, but these were so extravagantly urgent that he believed they were a joke on the part of fellow trekkers, and ignored them.

The Government has not denied the report but the Justice Ministry said it had no helicopters, a somewhat lame response since the aircraft in question was hired from a local Nepalese pilot identified as Bikas Rana.

M Tiberi, a prominent member of the ruling Gaullist RPR party, is a close ally of President Chirac, his predecessor as Mayor of Paris.

Mme Tiberi was allegedly paid 200,000 francs (£25,000) by the council of the Essonne region near Paris to write a 36-page advisory brief, which was rife with spelling mistakes, exceptionally dull and allegedly plagiarised. The report was unearthed by another investigative magistrate during a raid on the Mayor's Paris home last July.

Mme Tiberi is only the latest member of the family to attract the attention of French prosecutors. The Mayor is under investigation for allegedly ordering the refurbishment of a city-owned flat for his son, Dominique Tiberi, at a cost of more than £200,000.

Last month it emerged that Dominique Tiberi had been paid by the state-owned Air France for nearly three years after he left the company to become a ministerial aide.

JACQUES BRINON/AP

Xavière Tiberi, the latest member of the Tiberi family to face sleaze allegations

Rioting spreads in French colony

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

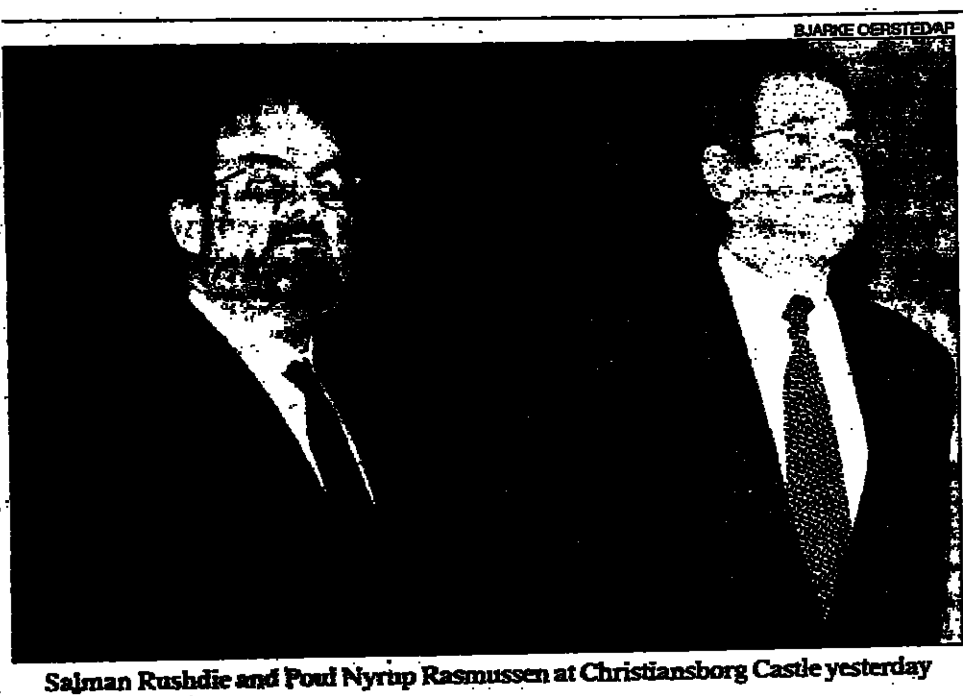
RIOTERS in French Guiana fought paramilitary police, flown from Paris, well into the early hours of yesterday as a wave of violence gripped France's impoverished territory on the northeastern coast of South America.

The latest upsurge of violence came after the conviction of seven people arrested during last week's riots in Cayenne, the territory's capital.

More than 200 French riot police, brought in last weekend after local police were overwhelmed, used baton charges and teargas to break up gangs of youths who threw petrol bombs, smashed windows and looted a weapons shop.

The riots were initially provoked by school pupils demonstrating against poor conditions. The unrest has since grown into action by well-organised, and in some cases armed, groups. So far the riots have caused one death, at least a dozen injuries and a huge amount of damage.

BJARKE OERSTED/AP


Salman Rushdie and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen at Christiansborg Castle yesterday

Rushdie arrives for prize

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

AMID some of the tightest security seen in postwar Denmark, Salman Rushdie, the British author, arrived yesterday in Copenhagen to receive his share of the European Union's £25,000 Aristeion Literature Prize at a ceremony in the Ark Museum of Modern Art, a new seafront arts complex south of the capital.

Mr Rushdie's visit came after a U-turn by the Danish Government of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Prime Minister, which banned him on security grounds only to change its mind last week in the face of an avalanche of domestic and international protest. The prize was also awarded to Christoph Ransmayer, of Austria, and the Danish translator Thorkild Bjornig. Copenhagen hosted the ceremony in its capacity as European Cultural Capital for 1996.

The Danish Government's mishandling of Mr Rushdie's visit caused a furore in a country that prides itself on its human rights record and has long been a leading champion of his fight against the death sentence pronounced on him by Tehran. Mr Rushdie has visited Denmark three times before, the last time time a year ago to promote his book *The Moor's Last Sigh*.

The original Danish rebuff, attacked by Mr Rushdie as "political cowardice", was on the ground that the Government was unable to guarantee protection. The ban sparked opposition calls for a no-confidence motion against the Social Democratic-led minority Government, threatening to topple it. The Government faces a stormy parliamentary debate on the issue today.

Belarus in missile threat to Nato

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

IN AN aggressive speech to the Russian parliament yesterday Aleksandr Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, summoned up ghosts of the Cold War when he called for rapid reunification with Russia and threatened to use his remaining nuclear missiles as a bargaining chip with Nato.

Belarus, with Kazakhstan and Ukraine, had promised to dismantle all nuclear weapons and ship them to Russia by the end of the year. So far the republic has not started to do so. Announcing that "about a dozen" SS25 missiles remain on his territory, Mr Lukashenko said their future depended on the course of Nato enlargement into Eastern Europe. "I hate to think that the situation might occur that the removal of missiles from Belarussian territory will coincide with the deployment of nuclear missiles and warheads on the territory of new Nato members," he said.

He delighted the Communist-dominated state Duma by saying that he wanted a new "strategic partnership" with Russia that might mature into "reunification". Russia and Belarus, the most Russified of the former Soviet states, already have a customs union and shared border guards.

The session was boycotted by about 70 liberal members of parliament who condemn Mr Lukashenko as an emergent dictator and say integration with the backward Belarus would be a disaster for the Russian economy. Grigori Yavlinsky, the leading liberal candidate for the presidency this summer, called the speech "a political show and buffoonery", the main aim of which was to win votes in a referendum on November 24.

The referendum will decide whether Mr Lukashenko can win acceptance for a revised constitution that would give him sweeping new powers and start his five-year term afresh, so extending his time in office by two years.

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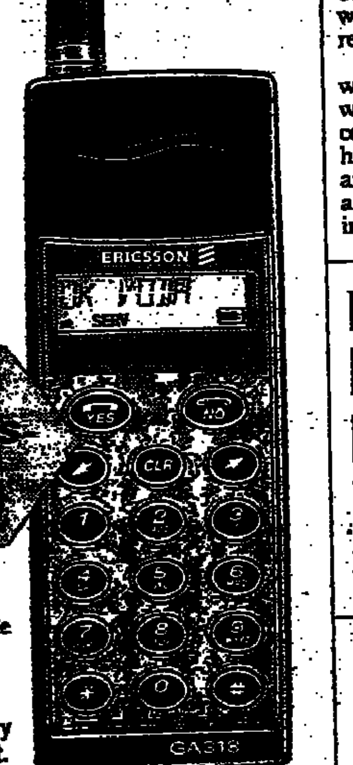

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Air crash inquiry begins as bullock carts recover dead

The inquiry will focus on the use of one corridor for incoming and departing flights, writes **Christopher Thomas** in Delhi

AFP

Firemen inspect the smouldering wreckage of the Saudia Saudi Airlines 747 yesterday. Debris and personal possessions were spread over several miles

THE bodies of 351 people killed in the world's worst mid-air plane collision were recovered yesterday from the flat farmlands of Haryana. They were piled high on carts hauled by bullocks and tractors — the only vehicles able to negotiate the fields and farm tracks in the rural backwaters southwest of Delhi. The wreckage landed over an area several miles wide.

Local people began the recovery operation at the main crash site long before dawn, working by the light of oil lamps while emergency services struggled to reach the area. The bodies were taken to makeshift mortuaries to await identification. The mood was quiet and sombre. Personal possessions were scattered across the mustard and cotton fields: toys, spectacles, passports, handbags and wallets among them.

Before daybreak some relatives arrived and became hysterical at the site of bodies strewn over the fields. A man walked through the carnage looking for his sister, Mumtaj: he lingered long over a disfigured corpse before deciding it was not her, and pressed on, shining a torch on the ground. People flicked through a child's diary, wondering at its one entry, in English: "Mummy to come …"

The wreckage of the Saudia Saudi Airlines Boeing 747 and the Russian-built Ilyushin-76 chartered from Kazakhstan National Airlines landed several miles apart, both narrowly missing built-up areas.

The transcript of the exchanges between the aircrew and control tower reveal nothing exceptional. There is only a brief clarification requested by the Ilyushin crew on the separation between the two aircraft. Experts say that a height separation of 1,000ft between two airliners is not extraordinary, but Delhi is unusual in that it lets aircraft arrive and depart in the same air corridor.

Some villagers say the Saudi pilot managed to manoeuvre the aircraft away from populated areas into open fields. Others said it was completely out of control and somersaulted twice before hitting the ground. The plane crashed in the vicinity of five villages, which were engulfed in black smoke.

Residents said four people had been found alive, but died soon afterwards. Several hundred police cordoned off the area yesterday to stop looting. The remains of the Kazakh plane, carrying 29 passengers and ten crew, crashed six miles away near Bhagwoj village. Cranes were brought in to lift the wreckage and remove bodies. Some corpses were recovered earlier by villagers and taken to a nearby clinic by tractor. Teams of doctors arrived to begin postmortem examinations.

The flight recorders of both aircraft were recovered and sent for immediate analysis. The Indian Civil Aviation Authority has started an investigation, and a judicial inquiry is being established. The investigations will study complaints by air traffic controllers about the use of the same air corridor for incoming and outgoing flights, despite repeated warnings that this system could lead to disaster.

Indian Civil Aviation Ministry officials said they would review flight safety procedures and examine complaints by pilots and air traffic controllers that the airport was ill-equipped to handle its growing traffic volume. The airport does not have secondary radar which shows air traffic control the height separating two aircraft. It is to be introduced at Delhi next month.

After the disaster, relatives of passengers thronged Delhi airport seeking news. A traffic policeman was besieged by angry relatives when he started towing away their cars. They screamed at him to show compassion, but in vain.

Kazakh plane 'was in perfect condition'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

KAZAKH airline officials said yesterday that their Ilyushin-76 cargo plane was in perfect condition when it collided with a Saudia Saudi Airways jumbo jet and insisted that the crew was competent. The Kyrgyz company that chartered the plane also denied poor safety standards in the former Soviet Union were to blame.

Among the victims of the crash were ten Kazakh crew members and 27 passengers, including 12 Russians, 12 Kyrgyz and three Kazakhs.

Ildus Nazmutdinov, vice-president of Kazakhstan National Airlines, one of hundreds of companies formed by Aeroflot's break-up, was confident "the aircraft was in good technical condition". Airline officials said the plane had been purchased only four years ago and described its technical state as "flawless". The pilot was said to have spoken fluent English.

Aidzhigit Biiranov, Kyrgystan's chargé d'affaires in Delhi, said: "The crew of that plane was formed of highly skilled pilots who had repeatedly performed flights to southern and southeast Asian countries."

Ill-fated Ilyushin pilot's last words

A TRANSCRIPT of the last exchanges between the Delhi control tower and the pilots of Saudia Saudi Airlines Flight SV763 and the Ilyushin-76 of Kazakhstan Airlines Flight KZA1907:

Kazakh: Good evening. 1907. Passing through 230 (23,000ft) for 180 (18,000 ft), 74 miles from DPN (Delhi).
Control Tower: *Descend 150 (15,000ft). Report reading.*
Kazakh: One-five-zero (15,000ft).
Saudia: Approaching 100 (10,000ft).
Control Tower: Cleared 140 (14,000ft).
Saudia: Approaching level 140 (14,000ft) for higher.
Control Tower: Maintain level 140 (14,000ft).
Control Tower: KZA1907 Report distance from DPN.
Kazakh: Reached 150 (15,000ft) 46 miles DPN.
Control Tower: Roger. Maintain 150 (15,000ft). Identified traffic 12 o'clock reciprocal. *Saudi Boeing 747, 14 miles.*
Kazakh: Kazak 1907, Report *how many miles?*
Control Tower: 14 miles now.
Control Tower: Traffic in 13 miles, level 140 (14,000ft).
Kazakh: 1907.

After a minute-long silence, the two planes collided. *(AP)*

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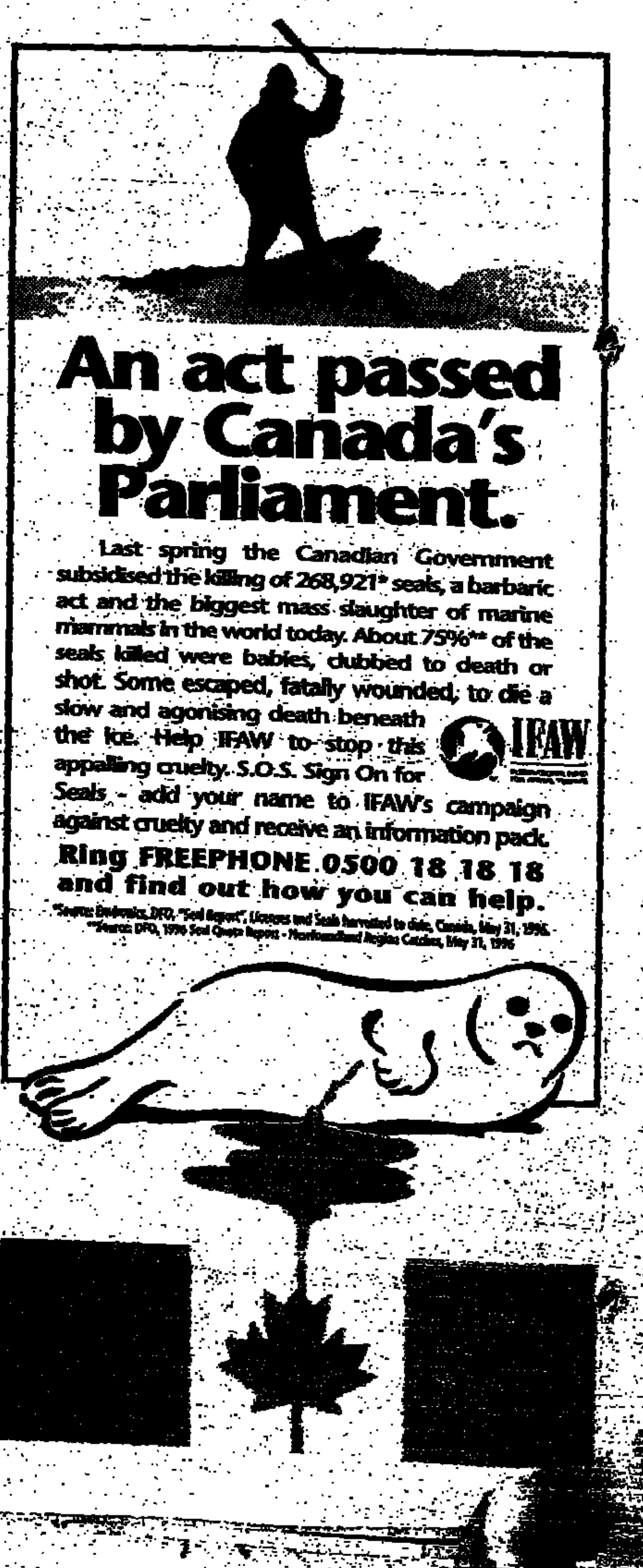

An act passed by Canada's Parliament.

Last spring the Canadian Government subsidised the killing of 268,921* seals, a barbaric act and the biggest mass slaughter of marine mammals in the world today. About 75%** of the seals killed were babies, clubbed to death or shot. Some escaped, fatally wounded, to die a slow and agonising death beneath the ice. Help IFAW to stop this appalling cruelty. S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

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*Source: [illegible], DFO, "Seal Report", Licenses and Seals harvested to date, Canada, May 31, 1996.
**Source: DFO, 1996 Seal Quota Report - Newfoundland Region Catches, May 31, 1996

Refugees scramble for food as Western diplomats weigh up options for military intervention

Zaire rebels defy French as forces await UN orders

Paris's paratroops are ready to save desperate refugees but face bitter military opposition, Sam Kiley reports from Goma

HUTU militia continued to shell civilian areas in Goma from their refugee camp yesterday as Paris offered to send 600 paratroopers in a move calculated to enrage the rebels who hold the city.

André Kissasse, the military commander of the rebels who have taken eastern Zaire's North and South Kivu provinces, welcomed proposals for an international military force to go to Rwandan Hutu refugee camps, but he reiterated his demand that France should take no part in the operation.

"They are not impartial in this region. We cannot accept French troops here. We would prevent them from coming, we will fire on any French troops who come here and physically resist them," he said.

French participation would be certain to stymie a military intervention to save Hutu refugees, threatened with cholera and held back from returning home by their own leaders, as Rwanda has also insisted that no French troops take part in the operation.

Some of the mortar rounds falling on Goma may have been part of shipments to the Hutu extremists organised by France during 1994, in defiance of an arms embargo imposed that year on all sides in the Rwandan civil war.

France said yesterday that it was prepared to send the 600 paratroopers to Zaire within 24 hours of United Nations approval for a multinational force to help starving refugees, and to have 600 more there a day later, defence officials in Paris said.

Army officers said the first French detachment to go would be from the Eighth Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment (8th RPIMa) based in Castres, southwestern France. The second 600 men, who could be in Zaire within 48 hours of receiving orders, would be from a sister regiment, the 3rd RPIMa, also made up of professionals with vast experience in Africa.

The troops would be flown from France with weapons, rations and ammunition for several days. Armoured personnel carriers could be flown in from the Central African Republic. The French offer comes at a particularly delicate stage in the establishment of an intervention force as countries who have offered troops do not know what their mission will be.

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

A woman fights for food supplies at an aid depot in Goma yesterday. Several people were hurt in the crush

Ray Wilkinson, the spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said he had hoped military intervention would not be necessary, but that if troops were sent to Zaire, they should be given the task of separating civilian refugees from members of the Hutu militia which carried out the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda. "We have been calling for some kind of intervention against these people since 1994. But the international community refused proposals from Boutros Boutros Ghali (the UN Secretary-General). This has come incredibly late." Mr Wilkinson said in Goma yesterday.

Relief agencies have taken a similar line, indicating a growing consensus that if foreign troops are sent to eastern Zaire they should have the right to use force, to arrest members of the *Interahamwe* (the Hutu militia) and the former Rwandan Army.

Yesterday the rebel commander said there would be no need for any troops to be sent to eastern Zaire if this was not the mission of foreign soldiers. "I don't see why they would have to have guns if they were not going to separate the *Interahamwe*. All aid organisations are welcome to travel through our territory."

Uganda kills three in border attack

From Reuter
in Kampala

UGANDA said yesterday that it killed three Zairean soldiers after the troops, backed by Zaire-based Ugandan dissidents, attacked two southwestern border posts.

In a statement in the name of the Ugandan Cabinet, Martin Aliker, the Minister of State for International Co-operation, said Uganda had repulsed the "enemy" and the Zairean soldiers and Ugandan dissidents retreated into Zaire from where they shelled Ugandan positions all day.

"The Government of Uganda wishes it to be known that there were two armed attacks on its territory this morning. An army platoon was attacked at Karambi, which is four miles northwest of Bwera. Another attack was at Mpondwe border post.

"These are two border trading centres between Uganda and Zaire in the southwest of Uganda. At Mpondwe, the enemy was repulsed, we killed three attackers," the statement said.

It added that Uganda had reinforced its positions.

Israeli ex-justice chief faces perjury charge

From Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

THREE Israeli government figures are facing trial for alleged corruption, prompting reshuffles of Binyamin Netanyahu's Cabinet. Charges against them, in separate trials, vary from bribe-taking to perjury.

The latest to face charges is Yaacov Neeman, the former Justice Minister. He will be indicted for perjury and obstructing justice after an investigation into allegations that in 1992 he tried to persuade a witness not to testify in the trial of Ayreah Deri, the leader of Shas, an ultra-orthodox Jewish religious party. The State Attorney's office found there was not enough evidence for that charge, but indicted him for perjury and obstruction of justice. The first count carries a maximum penalty of seven years in jail.

In the Cabinet reshuffle, Tzahi Hanegbi replaces the Justice Minister and Yehoshua Matza takes over his health portfolio.

Meanwhile, Mr Deri, now also a member of Mr Netanyahu's Government, began this week to give evidence in his own trial. He is charged with bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust, and falsifying corporate documents.

Ehud Olmert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, who has a Likud seat in the Knesset, is accused of fraud, forgery and breach of trust.

Mandela transfers nude pose secretary

From Inigo Gilmore in Johannesburg

PRESIDENT MANDELA has agreed to transfer a personal secretary from his official Cape Town residence to a more discreet job at his office in the city after she posed for a pornographic magazine.

Lilian Arrison was removed from her duties at the home of the South African President when it was disclosed that she had appeared in this month's edition of *Hustler* magazine. Mr Mandela was prompted to act after news of her exposure spread swiftly and parliamentary employees expressed disgust at the full-frontal picture.

Referred to as Lily in the magazine, Ms Arrison appeared as a semi-finalist in a competition for a cash prize of 10,000 rands (£1,300). In the accompanying caption, she was quoted as saying she enjoys life and sex, especially in the shower. Many will be surprised that she did not lose her job but Mr Mandela is known to be forgiving. Ms Arrison, who says she feels stifled in her new job as she can longer express herself, has accused her colleagues of being narrow-minded.

☐ Pretoria: Mr Mandela said that at their meeting yesterday President Chiluba had made a proposal which could end an opposition boycott of elections in Zambia next week. *(Reuter)*

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Social cost of schizophrenia

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on coping with schizophrenia, the problems of a rock star's son, a fit 91-year-old, psoriasis and carpal tunnel syndrome

The Reverend John MacPherson was about to pronounce the final blessing on the congregation who had gathered for the Remembrance Day service at Scourie, West Sutherland, last Sunday, when one of the worshippers stepped forward. The man murmured a few words from the Bible and then slashed the minister from his ear to his mouth with a knife. If the knife had cut just inches lower the injury would have severed the main blood vessels of the neck.

The assailant had a history of treatment for schizophrenia as an in-patient but, at the time of the incident, was being cared for in the community. There had been trouble at the same service the previous year, but no violence.

Although violent behaviour is part of the symptomatolgy of schizophrenia, most patients with it are retiring, apprehensive and shy people. In many cases it is the schizophrenic person's desire to be reclusive which contributes to the difficulty they find in fitting into everyday life.

Violence, for a variety of reasons, in schizophrenic patients is more common than it is in the rest of the population, but the outburst in Scourie, although headline-grabbing, is, considering that 1 per cent of the population are schizophrenic, unusual.

A more typical schizophrenic is Joe Wicks (played by Paul Nicholls) in *EastEnders*, who has recently been behaving unusually. Joe is 17, male and over-sensitive. He has always had a suspicious personality, but now he is beginning to wonder if someone is poisoning his lasagne and so prefers to prepare his own suppers.

Never extrovert, but previously with a good social manner, Joe is spending more and more time alone and is becoming depressed and withdrawn. Some of the things he does have become bizarre.

Those people with any medical knowledge who have been watching *EastEnders* over the past few weeks have all diagnosed impending schizophrenia, and now the only question that remains is how it is going to be treated.

The treatment for schizophrenia has, until recently, advanced little over the past 30 years and the return to the community for many patients who would have been happier, and safer, in a protected and controlled environment, has, in many cases, made their own lives, and those of their families, much harder. The emphasis on community care might be clinically justifiable if newer drugs were being prescribed which could make this new policy practicable, but so far as the average patient is concerned this has, as yet, not been so.

Although 80 per cent of patients with schizophrenia are taking the same drugs as I prescribed 35 years ago, in the last year or two better preparations have become available, but they are not yet being widely used. One of the reasons for this is cost.

Budgets in hospitals are usually departmental, so that although the prescription of a drug which will enable patients to stay in their own homes may inflate the bill, the overall cost of the NHS could be much less if the new preparation is so effective that the number of admissions to hospital is reduced by 60 per cent, and a lengthy stay in the ward each time is cut by 20 per cent. A drug which will achieve these results, Risperdal, is being marketed, but it is still inadequately utilised. Twenty five per cent of all the patients now in hospital in Britain are there because of schizophrenia. Economics should not be the main consideration when choosing a drug, rather it should be the patient's likely response to treatment. There are now at least two new preparations for the treatment of schizophrenia which seem to score well in this respect, for they both treat negative and positive symptoms of the disease.

Joe Wicks' strange behaviour in *EastEnders* has focused attention on schizophrenia, but new drugs are not being prescribed

Positive symptoms of schizophrenia include hostility, delusions, hallucinations, agitation and paranoia; the negative ones are those which tend to increase the inertia of the patient and his withdrawal from society. Like Joe, the patient becomes withdrawn, depressed, with blunted emotions, lacks spontaneity and tends to think in stereotypical patterns. The older drugs used to treat schizophrenia control the positive symptoms reasonably well, but these preparations have unpleasant side-effects. The new drugs are equally effective against the negative symptoms as they are against the positive with less troublesome side-effects.

Risperdal (Risperidone) has recently been awarded the Prix Galien, the international award for the most useful newly introduced preparation, and it has set new standards in treatment. Another, Serdolect Sertindole, has just been licensed for use and it claims to have even fewer side-effects.

It is predicted that there will now be a stream of new drugs becoming available, their more widespread use may not only help prevent tragedies like that in Scourie, but may improve the domestic life of hundreds of thousands of families in which one of the members is schizophrenic.

A soothing answer

TWO IN every hundred people in Britain suffer from psoriasis, a scaly skin complaint in which the basic cause of the trouble is that the skin cells are produced about ten times faster than is usual.

Plaque psoriasis is one of the commonest forms of the condition: in it, there are patches of red, scaly and thickened skin, classically found on the elbows, shins and the scalp.

A similar form of psoriasis also gives rise to a type of dandruff and it is one of the causes of a scaly itchy rash within the ears. A recent survey by *Pulse* magazine showed that 80 per cent of sufferers felt ashamed and embarrassed about their condition. And for 42 per cent of people, it resulted in lack of confidence, and 25 per cent suffered from depression as a consequence of their skin condition.

A treatment for plaque psoriasis, a cream called Curatoderm Tacalcitol, is described in *Prescriber* magazine. Not more than five grams of curatoderm should be used daily, but at this level it is tolerated and effective.

Curatoderm has the advantage of needing to be applied only once a day and of being less irritating to the skin than some other similar preparations. But it seems to be as effective as either 0.1 per cent Betnovate or diathranol. Curatoderm is better tolerated than diathranol.

Problems of a Prince's son

The artist formerly known as Prince may have dominated the pop scene in the mid-80s and had a sizzling personality which helped to change fashion as well as music, but he is little taller than Napoleon. His wedged shoes are now legendary. In addition, the pop star's head is slightly out of proportion to his body, although neither his height nor his unusually shaped head would have excited comment were it not that his newborn son suffers from craniosynostosis.

Craniosynostosis is the premature closure of the sutures of the skull. These sutures have nothing to do with stitches, but refer to the jagged lines which joined the various skull bones. If these joints between the skull bones become obliterated too soon there is inadequate room for the skull to accommodate the brain as it grows, and consequently it may suffer damage from being compressed.

As not all the sutures usually suffer from premature closure, the skull may be distorted into bizarre shapes because those parts of the skull that can expand compensate by doing so to a greater extent than is usual.

Occasionally, minor degrees of craniosynostosis can be spotted in adults. The final shape of the head will depend on which sutures fused early; some heads have a very high pointed forehead known as the tower head, or more precisely, turricephalic. Premature closure of different cranial joints may, for instance, produce a skull that comes to a point between the ears.

The amount of deformity varies greatly. The type of craniosynostosis from which the singer's son is suffering causes very considerable problems and is one of the more distressing abnormalities of this group of congenital diseases.

In appearance, the baby's skull is like a clover leaf and this type of deformity is often referred to as the Clover Leaf Syndrome. The changes in the skull in craniosynostosis are often associated with other birth defects. Ocular symptoms are common. In this baby's case, the orbits are likely to be very flat so that the eyes are unusually prominent. The shallow orbits are part of a general failure of the centre of the skull to develop. The affected child is often very short in stature, and frequently there are other bone and joint changes. This baby has abnormal elbows, and in some types of craniosynostosis there are additional fingers or toes.

Prince and wife Mayte Garcia

Craniosynostosis is an inherited condition and boys are three times more likely to be affected by it than girls. As in any inherited condition, the degree of penetration, that is to say the number of different features of any syndrome which the patient may show, varies, hence the possible interest in the American pop singer's own abnormally short stature.

In this baby's case, the type of craniosynostosis he is suffering from is associated with recurrent chest infections and changes in the circulation to the head and neck. Abnormalities in the system of veins, which are draining blood away from the head, can hinder the already complex surgery which is needed to relieve the symptoms caused by the condition.

Barry Jones, the consultant plastic surgeon at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, who has made a speciality of treating cranio-facial deformities in children, says that craniosynostosis is an uncommon condition and it is therefore very important that it should be treated in centres which are equipped for the necessary surgery and aftercare, and which are staffed with people who have relevant experience.

Mr Jones and Richard Hayward, a consultant neurosurgeon, have recently published the results of eight cases similar to that of the singer's baby who have been treated at Great Ormond Street.

Surgery is necessary not only to give the child a skull that is as normally shaped as possible, but also to relieve any infracranial pressure before there is brain damage.

How to live longer

BILL MACQUITTY, the son of a newspaper man and father of Jane, *The Times* wine correspondent, is more than 91 years old. He has had an action-packed life but still looks alert and vigorous at the many parties he attends. He swims daily and, regardless of two crumbling hips — the battlefields on which orthopaedic surgeons have waged war against degenerative joints and osteoarthritis — is able to get around with two sticks, and needs a wheelchair only at airports.

The MacQuitty handwriting is as firm and clear as that of a 20-year-old, but it also has the artistry of someone who started their education before the First World War.

After he published his autobiography at the age of 90, many people wrote to him for his recipe for longevity. He has now replied to this question by writing a book which covers his hints for becoming a nonogenarian.

The book emphasises the importance of maintaining an active interest in every aspect of life and of keeping going both physically and mentally; retirement is not a state that Mr MacQuitty recognises.

He also recommends drinking half a bottle of claret a day, although he says that in deference to his advancing years he gave up the pre-prandial whisky, which used to go with it, when he was 70.

- Survival Kit: How to Live to 90 And Make the Most of It, *William MacQuitty. Quartet Books, £9.*

Curing pain in the wrist

CARPAL tunnel syndrome gives rise to tingling, pain and numbness in the area of the hand — the thumb and the first three fingers — supplied by the median nerve. The symptoms can occur at any time but are often much worse at night. The cause is pressure on the nerve where it is bound to the wrist by ligaments.

In the past, carpal tunnel syndrome was seen most often in middle-aged women, who, it was said, had been working too hard doing the housework. Vigorous scrubbing, mopping, brushing or even dusting could all have been responsible. It also affects patients with various forms of arthritis, is sometimes a physical manifestation of the premenstrual state, and can happen in the later stages of pregnancy. The condition may be a symptom of an underactive thyroid, or problems with the pituitary gland. Today carpal tunnel syndrome is becoming increasingly prevalent in people who use keyboards, such as on computers, too long or too vigorously.

Very often a holiday from the keyboard, or some other change in routine, will be enough to overcome the symptoms. Sometimes the pain will be relieved if the patient wears a splint at night to keep the wrist in the bent-back, or cocked, position. Others need an injection of steroids into the tissue under the ligament. If this doesn't work a very minor operation to cut the ligament will put things right.

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One grope and you're out

Claims of sexual harassment have tarnished the US military's reputation, but the Pentagon is fighting back. **Quentin Letts** reports

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Filming from life: Tailhook was the subject of a television movie and the navy became a focal point for protest groups

This week's allegations of violent sexual abuse at a US Army training base, the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, have revived a nightmare for the US Armed Forces. Twenty instructors, mostly rough-hewn, square-bashing drill sergeants, have been accused of a catalogue of horrible deeds, from sodomy and rape to the sexual bullying of female recruits.

The nightmare is the 1991 Tailhook scandal, when a mob of US Navy officers ran out of control at a Las Vegas convention, ripping blouses and bras off women's backs before jeering with derision. After Tailhook the navy became the favoured target for America's liberals, women's rights groups, and allied progressives. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Frank Kelso *retired early*. But much of the criticism was taken personally by Admiral J. "Mike" Boorda, who *succeeded him, and when* Boorda was later skewered on a minor decorations infringement, he committed suicide. *Harassment?*

The US Army's initial response to the breaking of the Aberdeen Proving Ground has been more adroit than that of the navy in 1991. The Army Secretary, *Togo West, has gone on television to give* direct, no-nonsense interviews. "Seduced or not, the responsibility is on the NCOs not to get romantically involved with recruits," he declared. Generals were wheeled out to condemn the alleged crimes. The army launched an immediate investigation into sexual harassment.

Frank Kelso, left, and J. "Mike" Boorda

Once again, alleged wrongdoing by a handful of men threatens to undo the reputation of the best-equipped fighting force ever to march on earth. But the army's response suggests *that* the military *men* have awoken to the *fact* that this is a political battle. Hence it is talking about counselling. While one might justifiably question the wisdom of women being trained by men and alongside men, the Pentagon is feeling folk's pain and talking in the dialects of political correctness.

Suspicions of harassment always seem to lead to hip-shooting polemics about the macho culture of the military. Politicians *believe that* decorated officers should lose their careers on account of sloppy comments about the cost of a tart. A fighter-pilot *fraternity in Alaska is held up* for public disgrace because its members pride themselves on their womanising. *The media lap it all up. Sex-in-uniforms* is always good for sales.

Barely had the army announced its investigation this week than congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, a long-serving Democrat sniper, claimed that the military *had* a "wink-wink" attitude to harassment. Commentators called for top brass to lose their jobs, even before the ink was dry on the court-martial summonses.

The allegations at the Aberdeen Proving Ground are troubling. Tailhook was a disgrace. But in other instances one suspects that the US military is taking criticism because it is an establishment that liberals enjoy baiting. Tailhook, which occurred soon after the tortuous Anita Hill-Judge Clarence Thomas hearings, confirmed sexual harassment as a "hot button" political issue. Ms Hill claimed that she had been sexually harassed by Judge Clarence Thomas. She split the nation and Judge Thomas's reputation took a mauling.

Corporate America awoke to the danger of copycat lawsuits. "Ambulance-chasing" attorneys tout for business and sue on a *shared-damages* basis. Sexual harassment claims are rising at 29 per cent. Add this fever to a liberal dislike of the *military, and you have an explosive mix.*

The prominent conservative, Robert Bork, sees the rise of women in the military as *little* less than a feminist campaign against the Armed Forces. In his new book *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, Judge Bork argues that female soldiers have weakened morale and dimmed Uncle Sam's military might. His views are shared *by* many military officers, who fear that politicians who have never eaten compo rations or seen the dirty end of a foxhole are not the right people to formulate military policy.

Civilian companies have learnt to defuse lawsuits by ensuring that employees "go on courses". But military people are awkward souls. They are clumsy about the paraphernalia of modern management. Soldiers are not, on the whole, natural tree huggers, nor terribly good at group bonding sessions. Nor are non-commissioned officers highly sensitive flowers. If they were, they probably would not be much good at chiselling fighting men out of soft-palmed recruits.

Monica Ballard, a Californian sex *harassment expert, said:* "It is hard for governmental bodies to encourage communication. They are used to people being *told 'right, you will do this or you will be* forced to do 100 press-ups'." She fears that *some schemes can do more harm than* good. "If *you tell* people 'you can't do this or you will be fired' it can create antagonism."

Thomas Pison, Professor of Human Resource Management at Mercy College, New York, has advised the army on sexual harassment for 15 years and praises the way the military has responded. "The military are stereotyped as sexist, patriachal, authoritarian, but in fact the army has adapted better than many corporations," he said, citing the introduction of a "zero tolerance" rule, which applies to the army and navy. One grope and you're out.

The military have also reduced drunkenness, which was often to blame. "When I started it was common to go to an officers' club for lunch and for it to be a three-martini affair," said Professor Pison. "Nowadays, officers' clubs are more like Quaker boot camps. I fear they may have gone overboard the other way."

Harassment is unquestionably a problem, but things are improving. A recent *survey of 47,000 uniformed personnel* found that 78 per cent of the women (and 38 per cent of men) said they had received *unwelcome sexual attention from a colleague* in the past year. However, the same survey also showed that the much-*harpooned US Navy was doing a good job* in making people more aware. Seventy-one per cent of naval women said the problem was on the wane.

And the lessons for our own boys? They must swallow their distaste and admit past mistakes. Watch the drink, and adopt that zero-tolerance rule on petting. Ribald nicknames do not help, and some regimental traditions, alas, should probably be decommissioned. They should also take a deep breath and do the American thing: counselling. Toe-curling it may be, but it will provide that most vital of strategies: covering fire, from politicians, lawyers and the press.

Joe Joseph on better ways to settle a tiff

"Mrs Merton" with her new boyfriend, left; and ex-husband Peter Hook

The argument for celebrity fighting

Who would have thought that a fist-fight between Mrs Merton's estranged husband and her current boyfriend at the launch of a new restaurant would prove a more spectacular ringside draw than Tyson versus Holyfield?

Everybody knows how stupid it is if, when you get riled by someone at a party or in a bus queue, you automatically punch out wildly without thinking. Intelligent adults know that hitting is a last resort, to be taken only after calmly considering all key factors in the dispute, such as whether the other guy is likely to hit back and whether he can *out-sprint you if you make a run for it.*

But when it happens, even pacific people, the kind who wince when they *crack open a boiled egg*, can become mesmerised. A pub brawl flashes into life faster than a Swan Vesta, hypnotising even appalled onlookers. When the brawlers are celebrities, the onlookers spread well beyond the ringside with the help of a gawping national press.

'Brawls flare up faster than Swan Vestas'

This is why so many newspapers yesterday ran such prominent stories about this week's clash between the former and current lovers of Caroline Hook, the young comedienne who came to fame as the cheeky chat-show granny, Mrs Merton.

The two men met at the launch of Bill Wyman's new Sticky Fingers restaurant in Manchester. A verbal spat escalated into a physical one, during which Ms Hook was accidently kicked in the stomach by her husband, before the men were prised apart.

It was *messy, but at least it's over.* Isn't this better than the festering feuds and vendettas nursed over decades by *the chattering classes? Anna Ford once* tossed white wine over Jonathan Aitken after being jettisoned from TV-am, *but that was a long time ago. Since then* enemies have mostly just fumed.

Maybe it is time that society reverted *to the arranged duel*, allowing famous people to settle their differences once and for all without boring the nation senseless with their endless sniping in asides to gossip columnists. Max Clifford could at last find a useful role for himself as the Don King or Frank Warren of the celebrity world.

Instead of peppering all those paparazzi-filled parties with his clients, he could arrange for two famous people to settle their tiff with a punch-up at Quaglino's at 10pm sharp. Think of the publicity his clients would get, and the extra custom for Quaglino's.

If Bob Geldof and Paula Yates have a bone to pick with each other, let them pick it at Marco Pierre White's pricey restaurant at the Hyde Park Hotel: that would spare us all the latest twists in their mutual loathing that fills the newspapers. It might also save them the cost of settling their dispute in court. A similar arrangement would have suited Julia and Will Carling.

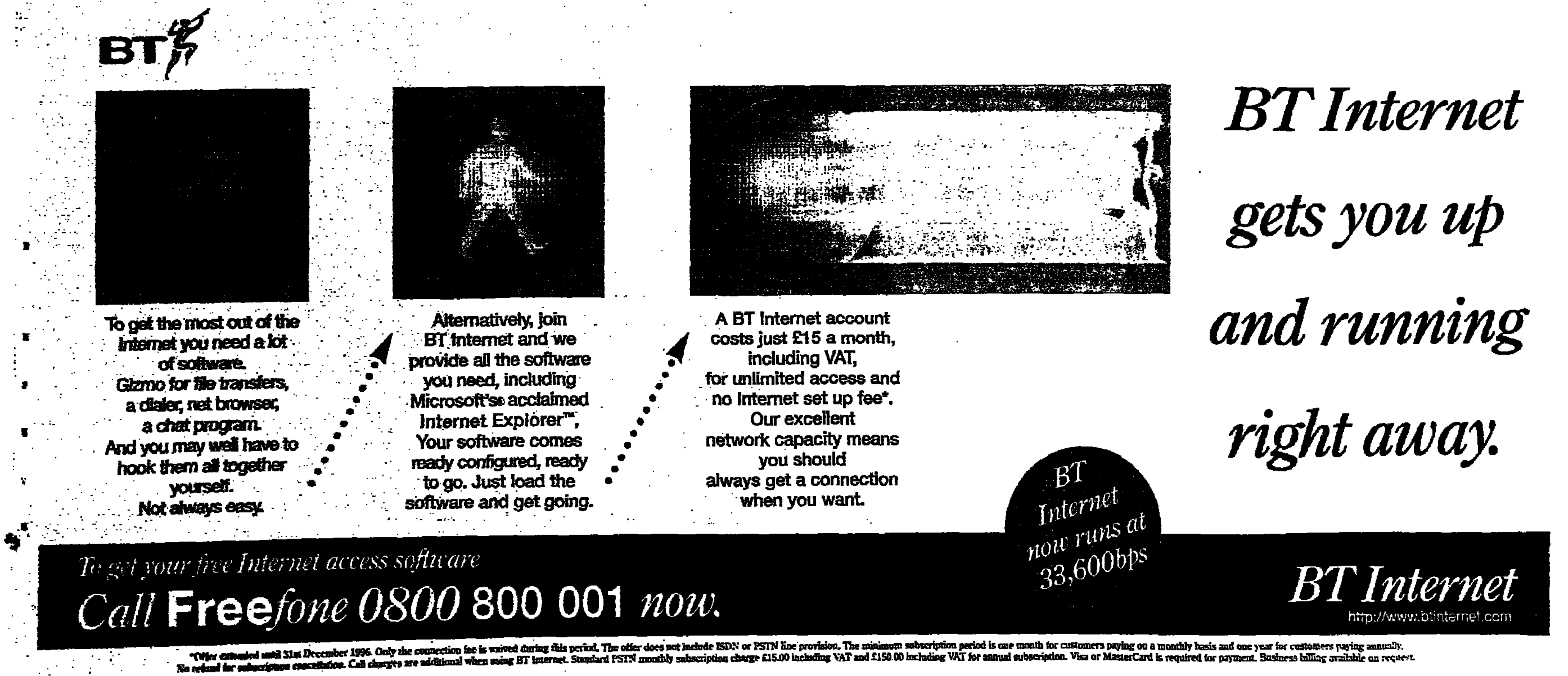
Ian Botham would have avoided his enormous legal bill if, instead of sueing Imran Khan, he had just asked a leading sports promoter to broker a duel in one of the bars at Lords. No more bitchy remarks in Parliament *between Eurosceptics and Europhiles:* instead a no-holds-barred bout between Bill Cash and Ted Heath in Annie's Bar. A.A. *Gill, the journalist* whose debut novel was recently savaged by reviewers as *puerile drivel*, could select a suitable Bloomsbury dining room in which to take on his critics.

Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani, who bicker about who is the cleverer couturier, could eat Italian food at London's River Cafe before pricking each other with sewing needles: a true needle match.

At first sight, a tussle between the revered Albanian nun, Mother Teresa, and her constant baiter, Christopher Hitchens, looks one-sided. Hitchens vilified her in his documentary *Hell's Angel* before attacking her further in his book *The Missionary Position*, in which he dubbed her "an anti-abortionist zealot" who lends her "saintly rubber stamp" to tyrants from Albania's Enver Hoxha to Papa Doc Duvalier. He's also much beefier than she is. But then again, she's got God on her side and often prays: "Deliver me, *O Jesus/ From the fear of being* despised/ From the fear of being calumniated/ From the fear of being *ridiculed.*" Frankly, Hitchens is probably too scared to enter the ring.

All those tiffs between Damon Hill *and Michael Schumacher, between the* feuding sibling novelists A.S. Byatt and Margaret Drabble, between Gore Vidal and almost anyone, they could come to an end with a timely duel.

Sadly, this breakthrough has all come to late for what would have been the fizziest encounter of them all: a tag wrestling match between Anne Diamond and Nick Owen of the BBC's *Good Morning* against their cosy sofa rivals Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley from Granada. Now that's the sort of daytime television that even Isaiah Berlin would watch.



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Thwarting the new star chamber

Heseltine's committee rules Whitehall, says **Sue Cameron**

Whitehall is agog. Officials in all departments are watching to see if Michael Heseltine's discomfiture over Civil Service impartiality will undermine one of the most powerful committees ever seen in British government.

Mr Heseltine's embarrassment at being prevented from using civil servants to help to promote Conservative government policies in the run-up to the election has caused glee throughout Whitehall. What is in question is whether this will weaken the authority that the Deputy Prime Minister exercises through his chairmanship of the Economic and Domestic Co-ordination and Presentation Committee. This is attended by top Tory party officials and by senior civil servants. Until now its writ has run throughout Whitehall.

Mr Heseltine wanted officials to organise cheerleaders to support Conservative policies, but Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, "advised" that this would be inappropriate. Technically, even the most senior civil servant is subservient to ministers, and officials say Mr Heseltine was furious at the way Sir Robin was seen to be calling the shots.

What is not generally known is that the matter was discussed by all the Permanent Secretaries — the Civil Service heads of department — at their regular Wednesday morning meeting. So the "advice" to Mr Heseltine enabled Whitehall to send a warning signal to the Tories and a reassuringly impartial one to Labour.

"Why didn't someone with the seniority and experience of Heseltine put the request for cheerleaders through Cabinet or through the political advisors?" one senior official asked. This would have caused no problem. Civil servants would even have supplied ministers or their advisers with the names of people supporting government policies; what outraged them was the idea that they personally should round up potential Tory propagandists.

Mr Heseltine's committee meets every day at 8.30 am. Those present have access to Cab-e-net, the electronic diary listing all ministerial engagements and government events. Mr Heseltine presides, sitting in his great chair at one end of the room. At his left hand sit the civil servants. Opposite Mr Heseltine sits a contingent from Conservative Central Office, including Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Charles Lewington, the Tories' director of public affairs. On Mr Heseltine's right sit the men who manage the Tories' parliamentary machine: Alastair Goodlad, the chief whip, Tony Newton, Lord President of the Council, Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and — of course — David Willetts, the Paymaster-General.

Mr Willetts started out as a Treasury official. Now under a cloud because of his efforts to manipulate the Commons' inquiry into cash-for-questions, he was brought into Mr Heseltine's committee to sharpen it up and act as gopher. It is he who phones officials to find out what line they are taking on policy and presentation.

Whenever they have a major policy announcement to make, ministers are grilled by this committee about timing, whether they have backbenchers on board and what the follow through is going to be. In effect this committee sits on Whitehall's shoulder, and the civil servants hate it.

Yet Whitehall has a grudging respect for the committee. Earlier co-ordinating committees were run by Willie Whitelaw and Bill Deedes (the former Tory Cabinet minister who went on to edit *The Daily Telegraph*) — both of whom are now peers. For much of John Major's premiership, similar committees have been held at the whips' offices in No 12 Downing Street. They were never as influential as this one.

"Heseltine is more ruthless and focused than anyone before," says an official. "The heart of government, the Cabinet Office, can be like a black hole — at the centre of everything and in charge of nothing. Heseltine's changed that."

Civil servants hate this committee, which is attended by Tory party officials

Yet Mr Heseltine's carelessness over the political neutrality of civil servants may cost him dear. He has cast serious doubt on the Government's attitude towards Whitehall impartiality, almost for the first time. This summer, the Association of First Division Civil Servants raised questions about ministers' intentions to Whitehall, but a survey of its members produced barely two dozen complaints. Some were too vague to count and others showed ministers backing down at once when told they had overstepped the mark. As a result attacks on Mr Heseltine's committee, with its constitutionally dangerous mix of Whitehall civil servants and Tory party officials, have fallen on stony ground.

That may now change. Questions may be raised in Whitehall about the propriety of requests coming from Mr Heseltine's committee. As the general election draws nearer, officials anxious to display their impartiality may find that Mr Heseltine's *faux pas* has provided an excuse to distance themselves from the committee.

Yet they may not escape it for long. Labour's Peter Mandelson, a close confidante of Tony Blair, is one of the few Opposition leaders who has bothered to attack the committee, saying that it orchestrates not government information (which would be legitimate), but Tory propaganda (which is not). Yet Mr Mandelson is known to have his eye on Mr Heseltine's chair. He and his master may find no better tool for retuning the Whitehall machine to their own purposes than this committee — a latterday Star Chamber suitable for 21st-century government.

A European ruling is crippling Scotland's enviable juvenile court system, says **Magnus Linklater**

Strasbourg's threat to Scottish children

I am no Euro-sceptic. In general I take a sanguine view of the way in which our lives have been influenced by the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. As for the European Court of Human Rights, most of its rulings have introduced an element of natural justice to British law which has been healthy. But I have learnt of one decision by the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights, whose impact is so damaging that it has rudely shaken my confidence.

The Children's Hearings system in Scotland is by far the sanest legal device I know for dealing with children in trouble — the envy of many other countries, including, I may say, England. A panel of three lay volunteers under the guidance of a "Reporter" hears cases involving children who have committed offences or who may be exposed to danger. It is a court, but it imposes no penal sanctions; its role is essentially pre-emptive; it steps in before a child drifts into a life of crime or comes to serious harm. It can and does summon parents, children, social workers or teachers involved in a case, and listens to them all before deciding the best course of action. It is more about therapy than punishment, it is based on trust, and, above all, it works.

All that is now at serious risk, crudely undermined by a ruling of the European Court under two sections of the Convention. Its effect has been to deprive Children's Panel members of access to the vital background information they need to decide on particular cases. Hitherto they have always been provided, in confidence, with full details of a child's background: his history of truancy, say, or his relationship with his parents. This has allowed them the insight they need to discuss the details, and reach a sensible decision. More importantly, it has frequently alerted them to the dangers a child may be in from an abusing parent, perhaps even one who may be sitting alongside it in the course of a hearing.

That information will no longer be available to them. Thanks to the European Court's ruling, which requires all documents to be available to all parties to a case, what must now happen is that a digest or "composite" of the case, prepared by a social work department, is circulated to the panel and to every member of the family involved. It will be an edited version, restricted to the minimum information that social workers judge necessary. Panel members will not be allowed to ask the Reporter for any additional evidence unless they reconvene the case. At a stroke, a sensible system based on understanding and trust has been emasculated by bureaucracy.

Worse, it has actually exposed the children it is intended to protect to greater danger. Last week, one Children's Hearing, supplied with information by a teenage girl about the abuse she was being subjected to by her violent father, found ways round the new rules in order to prevent that information being available to the father himself. The result would have been to expose the girl to his fury and possible revenge. Thus far the hearing has managed to protect her, but it is on shaky legal ground.

Why have we not heard a murmur of complaint from Scottish Office ministers, who are rarely slow to complain about Euro-interference? The answer is probably that they are unaware of what has happened.

The McMichael case which led to this ruling goes back to 1988. A Glasgow family involved in an adoption case had appealed to Strasbourg on the grounds that documents had been withheld from them. Whether there were good reasons or not for doing so, it meant that the whole panel system came under scrutiny. A decision was laboriously reached in 1993 and has taken three more years to work through. It lays down that every party to a Children's Hearing must have equal access to the papers. Since these often contain the opinions of social workers, details of their visits to a family home and confidential interviews, it has been decided that a digest only will be circulated. Thus, panel members who have been used to receiving bulky packages containing full background briefings, now have only a few sheets of paper. It may reduce their reading time, but it has left most of them profoundly unhappy. Even the digest can pose a risk if circulated to every member of a family, including possibly a relative who is a child abuser. Moreover, a social worker, who may be part of the problem, can be edited out of the story without the panel knowing.

Officials are privately appalled at the damage that may now be caused to the system, though publicly they are putting a brave face on it. One Reporter tells me they are having to find ways of making the new rules work, and that they will do everything to protect children. But it is absurd that practitioners of a system that has worked perfectly well hitherto should have to resort to this kind of roundabout activity. And it is ironic that it comes just one week after the announcement of a Children's Act in Scotland, the stated aim of which is to "put the interests of the child first".

The European Convention, drawn up in 1950, does nothing of the sort. It was drafted long before the concept of children's rights was properly formulated. It is far less effective in this respect than the later United Nations Convention. But because Britain is a signatory to the European Convention, Parliament is obliged to legislate in response to the Court's judgments, which thus effectively have the force of law. As far as I can see, it is a force for the worse.

Europe isn't working

Tony Blair has yet to learn how over-regulated labour markets destroy jobs

Italians mock their Prime Minister for lying about the requirements of the single currency

With yesterday's excellent figures, British unemployment has fallen to 7.2 per cent. That is good news, but it's not so very brilliant. In the immediate post-war period, a full employment standard used to be defined as unemployment below 3 per cent. Unemployment is currently lower in the United States, Japan and in the fast-growing Asian economies, though there are no adequate statistics for China. In the unregulated second half of the last century, unemployment in Britain was below 6 per cent in three years out of four. However, the recovery in employment since 1992, when Britain left the European exchange-rate mechanism is both impressive and welcome.

It is all the more impressive because of the contrast with the other major European economies. German unemployment is now 10.6 per cent, nearly 50 per cent higher than ours; Italy's is 11.7 per cent, 60 per cent higher; France's is 12.6 per cent, more than 70 per cent higher; Spain has nominal unemployment three times ours, though the Spanish figures are not reliable. These are levels of unemployment which would in the past have signified a slump. Of course, modern welfare systems provide much better support for the unemployed, but any country which has unemployment above 10 per cent, even nowadays, suffers harsh social damage. Despite the British performance, the average level in the European Union is now higher than that.

Why has it happened? We are not doing especially well, but the European nations are doing very badly. Britain's experience since leaving the exchange-rate mechanism suggests that European unemployment is due largely to the policy of moving to a single currency, and the strict convergence criteria. The German, French, Italian and Spanish economies have all been subject to deflationary policies, at a time when their unemployment levels showed that they were already deflated. National currencies, particularly the mark and the franc, are at uncompetitive levels; this has resulted in the loss of exports, in additional imports and in overseas rather than domestic investment by European industries. The difference between German and British rates of unemployment can partly be accounted for by the export of jobs out of Germany and the import of jobs into Britain.

The Maastricht convergence aims were adopted at the start of the recession of the early 1990s; they have been pursued at a time when Europe should have been coming out of recession. In the past three years Europe ought to have enjoyed quite a rapid rate of growth. Deflation can be expected to continue, first of all in the period before the euro is introduced, and then in the early years of the euro itself. Rising unemployment naturally follows this kind of monetary deflation, as it did in 1925, when Winston Churchill returned to the gold standard at the pre-war rate.

These well-known consequences were first described by David Hume in his *Discourse of Money*, published as long ago as 1752. "A nation whose money decreases is actually, at that time, much weaker and more miserable than another nation who possesses no more money, but is on the increasing hand . . . The poverty and beggary and sloth which must ensue

William Rees-Mogg

are easily foreseen." By deflating during a post-recessionary period, the European nations have impoverished themselves, making one of the classic errors of economic policy yet again. The authors of this policy cannot have read Hume or Keynes, and do not seem to know any economic history.

However, Europe's unemployment has not been caused only by the overvaluation of the mark, or by the convergence criteria, damaging though they have been. The European labour market is one of the most tightly regulated and highly taxed on earth. That is why it is so uncompetitive. British labour is much better placed, partly because the pound has been allowed to find its market level, partly because British wage rates are themselves competitive, at least in European terms, partly because our labour costs have not been heavily loaded with welfare charges, and partly because the British labour market, though itself regrettably imperfect, is a great deal more free than those of our continental partners. If an enterprise has to be closed in Britain, it can be done at reasonable cost. That is not the case in Germany, Italy, France or Spain; their labour markets have no exit.

For these reasons, the decision by the European Court of Justice on the working week is of central economic importance. The Commission in Brussels wants to widen the regulations, and to impose them on Britain, contrary to the opt-out, and against the will of the British Parliament. If we had the European degree of regulation, Britain would undoubtedly suffer something muchcloser to European levels of unemployment. Instead of going down, British unemployment would be going up.

The Labour Party has got this issue wrong every time. It supports a minimum wage, though the effect of a minimum wage is to lock the lowest paid out of the labour market. Labour supports the European use of bogus health and safety arguments to impose restrictions on us. It would like to force Britain into a European-style, highly regulated, high cost, and therefore high unemployment labour market. It would be a disaster.

Some businessmen have been wondering whether it would be right to support Tony Blair at the next election. Many of them like what they see of him, and feel that the Conservatives, after 17 years in office, have run out of energy and ideas. They think that democracy itself might benefit from an alternation of government at the next election. There is a good deal in these arguments. Tony Blair has done much to reform his own party — he already looks the best Labour leader in 30 years. New Labour is not just old Labour with a smiling mask. John Major's administration does not show the energy and initiative of the second, and best, Thatcher Government. Even on European issues, the Conservative record is not perfect.

Yet Tony Blair's policy of accepting labour regulation from Brussels seems to owe much more to old than to new Labour thinking. Every Labour Government since the war has reduced the freedom of the British labour market, has introduced new regulations, has raised labour costs and enlarged the role of the trade unions. As a consequence, every Labour Government has see unemployment rise — and that was true of the pre-war Governments as well. Unemployment had risen when Labour left office in 1924, 1931, 1951, 1970 and 1979, and it was no accident. Labour regulation and trade union power destroy jobs, in Britain as well as on the continent; free and open labour markets allow jobs to be created, as they are currently being created in America.

Suppose that we did what some "good Europeans" would like, and accepted both the labour regulations and the single currency. This would herald a new deflation in order to meet the Maastricht criteria, and deflation after we joined as well. It would mean higher taxes. It would inhibit, if it did not actually reduce, labour productivity. It would discourage investment. It would raise unemployment. These are the natural consequences of Gordon Brown's policies, as they would be of Ted Heath's. Until yesterday, one could hope that Tony Blair had seen the force of these counter-arguments, but his reaction to the European Court of Justice decision makes that very doubtful. Tony Blair challenged John Major to fight the next election on this issue. It is an issue of open against regulated labour markets, of decisions from Brussels as against Westminster, of high unemployment as against job creation. If that is Labour's choice of issue, no businessman should support it. Nor should anyone who does not sincerely want to be unemployed.

Father and son

NEWS OF A second government minister being drawn into the David Willetts controversy over the cash-for-questions investigation is weighing heavily on Sir David Mitchell, wine-bibbing MP for Hampshire North West.

You see, Sir David is a member of the Standards and Privileges Committee which is conducting the investigation. And the second minister concerned is his son Andrew, a former whip who is implicated in the affair, if we are to believe Dale Campbell-Savours, the Labour MP for Workington.

Campbell-Savours insists that Mitchell *fils* was part of the government whips' conspiracy to suppress a full investigation into the cash-for-questions affair. If he has his way, and persuades Standards and Privileges to investigate, then Mitchell *père* may have to resign from the committee.

"It would be sad if the first calamity of this investigation were to be Sir David Mitchell, who has done nothing wrong at all," comments one Tory source.

● *The Referendum Party is taking its fight to the country's telephone booths. The party's volunteers have been pulling on their velvet-collared overcoats and jostling with the various masseuses, mature schoolgirls and Russian vixens all piling in to leave their cards beside the handsets. "We are street-fighting men and women here at the Referendum Party," explains an official.*

Not he

IT'S TIME to put an end to City rumours concerning Charles Anson, the press secretary to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. There have been suggestions that he is on the point of taking a lucrative post as director of external affairs at Merrill Lynch, the American bank. City sources have suggested that he has been holding discussions with the bank.

But although recruiting for the job is going on — and the rumoured salary is £250,000 — Merrill Lynch is adamant. "We have no plans to appoint him," says a slicker behind the till. Try Coutts.

Check hers

JOHN MAJOR beamed like a baby with a new rattle yesterday as he extolled the virtues of being married to a bestselling author, at a literary lunch to celebrate Norma's book *Chequers: The Prime Minister's Country House.*

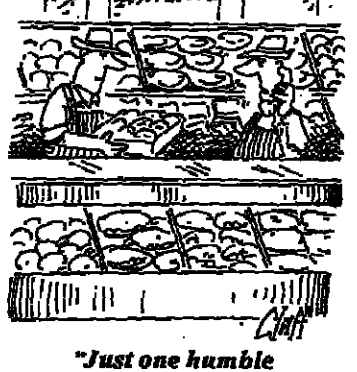
There were tribulations, he acknowledged at the Foyles lunch, such as learning how to catch manuscripts that were thrown at him. But the great advantage was that because Norma was so busy writing, he had rediscovered the kitchen. "I learnt how to cook every weekend — a skill that had fallen into disuse over the years."

For guidance on his cuisine, I turned to his brother Terry Major-Ball: "I last lived with him when I was 17, a long time ago," he said. "He used to cook fry-ups all the time." Norma yesterday insisted his cooking style had developed. "He does a very good roast."

Tape that

SINO-JAPANESE relations were helped along the other day by a coalmining administrator from China. At the end of a speech given in China by the former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Zhang Chonghui raised his broken tape-recorder and said: "My friends can prove that this recorder is out of order. Would you please say words to the Sanyo company? I would like to have personal compensation."

Kaifu managed a dignified response in the face of some audience sniggers: "We'll convey your message to the Sanyo company," he said. "If it's possible, I will try to give you a personal reply. Please believe me: Japanese statesmen always keep their promises."



"Just one humble pie for Mr Howard"

Back then

ON HIS tour of Uzbekistan, the Prince of Wales has taken an unusual interest in an ancient and blood-splattered copy of the Koran. He also donned a purple Islamic wedding gown. His ancestry suggests why. He is a direct descendant of the senior branch of the Qoreish, ruling dynasty of Mecca, and of the prophet Mohammed's great uncle, Abd Shams, a banker. His Islamic genes come via his great grandmother, Queen Mary, whose East European forebears include Ghengis Khan.

● *The most notable feature of a cinema that opened in Rome last night was 50 "love seats", designed for couples with amorous intentions. For the romantically reclined, the Cine Bleu is situated in the 15th century Palazzo delle Rovere. "Its seats are marvellous," smooched one Casanova. "They've got rid of that inconvenient armrest." Happily, the picture palace is just yards from the sacred portal of St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican.*

Romantic diptych: Starkie and the duchess deserving each other

Mirror images

BACK down in the cheap seats, we find Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, busy sketching. On the cover of this week's *Hello!*, the duchess is pictured in a red cassock sitting on the banks of the Rhine, pencil poised over her pad. But what or whom is she sketching? Turning to Allan Starkie's book on the Duchess, *Fergie: Her Secret Life*, we find a picture of Starkie, then the duchess's right-hand-man, now her nemesis, sitting on the banks of the Rhine also sketching.

It emerges that the two photographs form a diptych, having been taken on a trip made by Starkie and the duchess to the Rhine Valley. So, neatly enough, the duchess's apologia is advertised by her sketching Starkie, while Starkie's hatchet job shows him sketching her.

P·H·S

A TOO BOLD BENCH

Citizenship for the Fayeds, but not this way

The Court of Appeal may have helped two deserving cases but, in so doing, it has set an unfortunate precedent. Mohammed and Ali Fayed appear to have a good case for British citizenship. Their affection for the United Kingdom, their enterprise and philanthropy recommend them. But any decision on granting citizenship rests with the Home Secretary. In deciding citizenship applications he will have access to information denied others and, very often, impossible to make public. Parliament has decided that ultimate discretion is his and he does not need to justify his decision. In ruling that the Home Secretary should have intimated to the Fayed brothers why he was minded not to grant them citizenship the Court of Appeal is usurping Parliament's authority. Whatever the merits of the Fayeds' case, it should not be advanced by such means.

The citizenship the Fayed brothers seek is, in their case, a privilege and not a right. The Home Secretary's powers are governed by the 1981 British Nationality Act. Section 44 of the Act states that the Secretary of State "shall not be required to assign any reason for the grant or refusal of any application" and his decision "shall not be subject to appeal to, or review in any court". In passing the 1981 Act Parliament went out of its way to excuse the Home Secretary from any obligation to justify his decision.

Even advocates of the most circumscribed state would allow that the power to decide on citizenship should still be exercised by the government and cannot be delegated elsewhere. Some executive decisions may deserve to be reviewed in the courts but not the exercise of judgment in a matter as fundamental as citizenship. Moreover, when a request must be denied the government may have any number of reasons to withhold the justification. It may wish to prevent an agency, or individual, from being compromised. The Home Secretary's first duty is to safeguard the security of those who are citizens by right.

The Master of the Rolls, however, takes a different view. Lord Woolf's judgment yesterday displayed the creative flair of a brilliant mind. He accepted that Mr Howard did not have to give reasons after his judgment. But he argued that natural justice and fairness should have led the Home Secretary to have informed the Fayeds, before any decision was taken, why he was minded to refuse. Then, they might have had a chance to allay his concerns. Lord Woolf used "natural justice" as a justification for the creation of a new "right".

The inclination of judges to create new rights where none had existed before is, perhaps, driven by a reaction to 17 years of rule by one party. It can, nevertheless, be more damaging to the health of the constitution than any long lease on office. Lord Woolf has already hinted that judges might provide citizens with a right to privacy if Parliament failed to act. In so doing he was looking askance at the principle of parliamentary sovereignty central to our tradition of liberty. With his judgment yesterday, Lord Woolf was not only creating a new right but one in defiance of Parliament's express intentions. Lord Justice Kennedy, in a dissenting judgment, was right when he pointed out that there is no reason to believe that Parliament wanted the 1981 Act to do anything other than relieve the Home Secretary "not only of the obligation to give reasons at the time of . . . his decision, but also of any duty to indicate . . . at any earlier stage why he might refuse".

The supremacy of Parliament has been the foundation of the freedoms which have made British citizenship such a desirable prize. Judges, even if actuated from the noblest of motives, should not place themselves in opposition to the clearly expressed will of the Commons.

FOOD'S FLAT EARTHERS

A debate on hunger distorted by the prophets of doom

Hunger, particularly in children, stunts bodies and minds and lowers resistance to disease. At yesterday's opening of the World Food Summit in Rome, governments declared it to be "intolerable" that around 800 million people, a quarter of them children, are malnourished. They undertook to halve that number within 20 years. The United Nations has a deservedly bad reputation for setting unrealistic targets; but provided it can be stripped of doom-mongering myths about impending global famine, this one is harder than most to quarrel with.

Sensible policies must begin with the recognition that the existence of widespread hunger — an evil that has never been absent from the human condition and which at least now rarely takes on the dimension of famine — does not imply that the world cannot grow enough food, now or in future. Food production has been one of the great global successes of the past 50 years. Grain harvests have trebled since 1950, outstripping what may prove to have been the historical high point in population growth. Meat production has grown almost as fast. The gap between average food intake in rich and poor countries has also narrowed.

Pessimists still contend that the margin of safety is uncomfortably narrow; this spring, after three years of poor harvests, global carry-over stocks plummeted and grain prices soared, adding $4 billion to developing countries' food import bills for 1996. To keep pace with population growth, global yields will have to rise by 75 per cent over the next 30 years. Rising consumption of meat, particularly among Asia's newly affluent, will sharply increase demand for grain: China, once a grain exporter, is now the world's second largest importer.

Since most good land is already under cultivation and cities are growing, yields will have to rise. This will be harder to achieve on an environmentally sustainable basis than in the past. But there is enormous unrealised potential in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; and a second "green revolution" could transform prospects — even in Africa, where food production has been falling for 20 years.

Genetic engineering is producing crops that resist pests, need little or no fertiliser and adjust to different climates. What is needed is strong international backing for biogenetics, coupled with schemes to extend these technologies to poor countries while protecting property rights. That will not help subsistence farmers in Asia and Africa for years to come; such technology spreads slowly. But with easier access access to small agricultural credits and to markets, simple and cheap techniques could enable many of them to double or treble output.

Market forces are already responding to the price surge. But the West sets a poor example of faith in the marketplace. It has far further to go in curbing export subsidies and ending the practice of dumping food in developing countries, ruining local farmers.

Ample global supplies help to smooth out price fluctuations to which the urban poor and landless labourers are particularly vulnerable. But policies aimed at reducing malnutrition need to look more closely at the demand side of the food equation and help the poor to help themselves. "Food security", that overworked UN mantra, is not a matter of national self-sufficiency in food production. Acute hunger exists in countries with plentiful food supplies and exportable surpluses — and is absent from places such as Hong Kong which are almost devoid of farmland. People go hungry when they can neither grow enough to feed themselves nor earn enough to buy what they need. It is an indication of the muddled state of the food debate that this even needs to be said.

NO TRUMPS FOR COMPUTERS

Chips are no use at the bridge table — or even here

One by one, man's best games are being forced to acknowledge the power of the computer. When the world chess champion Garry Kasparov was beaten in February by a chess program called Dark Blue, a shiver ran through the masters of the game. Kasparov rallied to defeat Deep Blue by four points to two, but a threshold had been crossed. Soon, a silicon chip may prove to be the ultimate grandmaster. Draughts has already turned that corner, while the computer's number-crunching power also makes it a powerful backgammon player.

Until now, however, bridge has remained above the fray. Unlike board games, where everything is open, card games function in a world of imperfect information. Players hide their cards, and intentions, in a complex web of bluff and deception. You can only guess what cards your opponents hold; the possibilities are almost endless and even the fastest of computers struggle to calculate them. Bridge programs have been forced to take short cuts, brutally simplifying the problem to get anywhere at all. So, even the poorest player can defeat them. As one leading US player said, bridge programs would have to improve even to be hopeless.

Bridge players should not, however, rest easy. While programmers have used chess as assault course training for the even harder task of developing artificial intelligence, bridge has been neglected. After a comparable investment of time and effort, it is perfectly possible that a computer may be able to simulate skills of the bridge table. Using a direct approach which eschews almost all the subtleties of the game but exploits the power of the computer to search through possibilities, Dr Matthew Ginsberg of the University of Oregon believes he has taken a great leap forward. Within a few years, he asserts, computers will be able to play bridge with the best of them.

That may prove over-optimistic. It has taken chess programmers a very long time to get as far as they have, while the more general expression of intelligence by computers still seems a distant dream. The idea, bandied about in the 1960s, that computers would soon exceed man's grasp in many fields of intellect proved to be hubristic. Even child's play turned out to be beyond the capacities of the day. Only recently, with the development of computers that mimic the architecture of the human brain, has substantial progress been made.

It is galling to be beaten at chess by a computer. But no machine has yet written a worthwhile sonnet, translated Homer, deduced a law of nature, or, to set a more realistic target, composed a leading article for The Times. With that consolation we must rest content.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Welcome for benefits of Europe's 48-hour directive

From Professor Sidney Pollard, FBA

Sir, Ever since industrialised nations have been in competition with each other, those losing some of their markets have tended to accuse the gainers of beating them by the "unfair" means of paying low wages or working long hours.

Such accusations are routinely denied. Ours is the first government which not only admits it (reports and leading article, November 13), but is not ashamed to boast that it is deliberately snatching an advantage by the caddish method of breaching the rules which other members of the club are pledged to uphold in the interests of all.

We now have it on the highest authority that after 17 years of Conservative rule we are no longer able to compete on even and "fair" terms with the rest of Europe. It appears that we can hold our own only by imposing on the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society, lower wages, longer hours and much poorer social benefits than are current among our partners.

Yours sincerely,
SIDNEY POLLARD,
34 Bents Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
November 13.

From Mr David Pepper

Sir, I must agree with the views of Labour's Graham Allen (letter, November 12) on the benefits of the working-time directive.

At this company, a major manufacturer of photographic materials, we have already used the directive as a framework to agree new working practices with our workforce. The result is that our people will improve their output and flexibility whilst reducing our costs. The benefit of the directive is that they know they will be safeguarded from any unreasonable exploitation by the company.

It has never made sense to drive a workforce into large amounts of overtime by poor basic wage rates and bad production planning. I shuddered last week when I heard an advert for skilled sewing machinists at £108 for a 40-hour week — but with the opportunity to earn large amounts of overtime. This is no way to run a company, let alone a modern economy.

If Mr Major needs to pick a fight with Europe let it be on the issue of enforcement of such directives so that we are all competing on the same basis.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID PEPPER
(Personnel Manager),
Ilford Limited,
Town Lane,
Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire.
November 12.

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, When a government finds that a judge does not accept a minister's interpretation of the law it may appeal to the highest court in our land, the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords. If the committee's ruling goes against government then the government can do one of two things: accept the ruling and abide by it or ask Parliament to change the law. If Parliament refuses, the judgment stands. That is democracy in action.

When, however, the decision which the government dislikes is delivered by the European Court and there is no appeal therefrom, what does the government do? It could, if it felt that the situation demanded, ask Parliament to agree to withdraw from Europe. If not, then it must accept the ruling in good heart.

But what does this Government propose? Grudgingly to accept the ruling but instead of arguing for a change in the law in the European Parliament, to endeavour to obstruct the working of that body and of the Commission in the hope that it will gain acceptance of its desire for a further "opt out" clause.

Is that the way to encourage respect for law and order about which ministers, and Mr Howard in particular, are always lecturing us?

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BEST,
Glebe Cottage,
Broadwoodkelly, Winkleigh, Devon.
November 12.

From Mr D. C. Godfrey

Sir, Surely the EU ruling on maximum working hours is a victory for Britain — not a defeat. A defeat for John Major and his sweatshop economy maybe, but a great victory for the vast majority of British workers.

The Tories are quick to trumpet the success of our economy. It is hardly a sound one if it depends on denying the creators of wealth any guarantees of fair wages, working hours or holidays.

A sound economy is built on real jobs with decent pay and conditions. John Major's so-called decency only applies to his friends — the shareholders who are reaping the benefits of this underpaid workforce.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. GODFREY,
13 Old House Gardens,
Park Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.
November 13.

From Mr A. F. Frodsham

Sir, The proposed directive on working time is designed to give an employee the right to decline to work more than 48 hours per week. It does not proscribe a longer working week. Surely an employee should be allowed to decline to work what many people today might regard as excessively long hours?

What an earth is all the fuss about?

Yours etc,
ANTHONY FRODSHAM
(Chairman, Advisory Committee,
European Business Foundation),
36 Fairacres,
Roehampton Lane, SW15.
November 12.

From Mr Peter Farrell

Sir, It is surely somewhat ironic that two categories of worker excluded from current EU workers' hours legislation, introduced on the grounds of health and safety, are junior hospital doctors and transport workers. Whose health and safety, one is tempted to ask — apparently not those of the customer.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FARRELL,
White Heather, Wonham Way,
Peaslake, Guildford, Surrey.
November 12.

From Mr R. A. Haeger

Sir, Your headline on page two today says: "Major pledges to reverse 48-hour week".

Doesn't 84 seem to be a trifle excessive?

Yours sincerely,
R. A. HAEGER,
Apt. 380,
2 Old Brompton Road, SW7.
November 13.

Defence under Healey

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, I take issue with Mr Alan Lee Williams (letter, November 5) when he rates Lord Healey as "arguably the best Secretary of State for Defence since the Second World War".

I suggest that Lord Healey was responsible for one of the worst defence decisions of the last 40 years. In 1965 he decided the Navy should no longer be equipped with aircraft carriers capable of operating a full range of fixed-wing aircraft. As a direct result, 17 years later the Navy had to conduct the Falklands campaign without proper air support, always a recipe for heavy losses.

The small force of Harriers did valiant work, but could not replicate what would have been achieved by fighters, early-warning and strike aircraft operating from a large carrier. If such ships had been available the campaign could have been shortened and losses of ships and men much reduced. Indeed it is arguable that in that situation the Argentinians would not have undertaken the invasion in the first place.

I accept that Lord Healey could not foresee the future, but defence policy is always about an uncertain future. I accept that he faced difficult financial constraints and that the Naval Staff (I was one of them, as a junior captain) did not present the carrier case to him as well as it might have done.

Nevertheless, the buck stops with the Secretary of State. Britain won the Falklands War in spite of a decision taken in Lord Healey's time. That is not the epitaph of a great Secretary of State.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGIUS,
Lewithick, Mylor Churchtown,
Falmouth, Cornwall.
November 6.

War poetry

From Mr Kevin Harrison

Sir, It's surprising to find Philip Larkin quoted at length (November 11) beneath a poppy masthead, on a page devoted to the two-minutes' silence.

Larkin's horror of war is evident. But his dislike of remembrance ceremonies is emphatic. In 1960, less than six months after writing MCMXIV, he was caught up in Remembrance Sunday traffic on his way to London airport. In Naturally the Foundation will Bear Your Expenses he writes:

> Yet not till I was airborne
> Did I recall the date —
> That day when Queen and Minister
> And Band of Guards and all
> Still act their solemn-sinister
> Wreath-rubbish in Whitehall.

Anti-war, yes; but despite increasingly right-wing views Larkin remained opposed to what he regarded as pomposity and formal ceremony throughout his life.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN HARRISON,
Fairlie,
Church Walk, Headcorn, Kent.

Gorbachev and Katyn

From Mr Ray Ward

Sir, Like Professor Norman Davies (letter, November 2), I was at the Times/Dillon's Gorbachev forum last month. I was surprised by the misleading impression he gives of what Gorbachev's memoirs say about the massacre of Polish officers at Katyn and elsewhere.

Professor Davies says that Gorbachev does not call the massacre a crime. However, in the same passage to which Davies refers, Gorbachev mentions a Tass statement describing Katyn as one of the most heinous crimes of Stalinism, and calls the document implicating those to blame a "hellish paper".

Attempts to confuse Khatyn with Katyn go back, as Davies says, a long way, and it is probable that Khatyn was chosen as a war memorial site in the hope that people would think due respect was being paid to the massacre victims. That the confusion is perpetuated in Gorbachev's memoirs is strange, but I see no need for sinister theories.

Perhaps Gorbachev was not personally responsible for the selection of photographs and/or the captions to which Professor Davies refers. Perhaps he was himself deceived into confusing Khatyn with Katyn. Since Gorbachev makes clear he personally appreciated the full horror of the mass murder he can hardly have any motive for attempting to perpetuate the confusion.

Yours faithfully,
RAY WARD,
Flat 97,
17 Sheppard Drive, SE16.
November 6.

Bacon at the Globe?

From Mr Mark Rylance

Sir, Bernard Levin, in his article of November 1, "A heretic at the Globe", states that I believe that The Tragedy of Anne Boleyn proves that Francis Bacon wrote all the plays attributed to William Shakespeare and that I have said I am going to stage this play. I have never said anything of the sort.

In this polygonal "wooden O" in Southwark, I am not interested in anything that would "prove beyond doubt" who Shakespeare was. Uncle Bernard is quite correct when he says "Take it from me again, ducky; anything that 'proves beyond doubt' in this field is ipso facto bilge".

We at the Globe are here to encourage and promote the enjoyment and understanding of Shakespeare's plays — and those of his contemporaries — in the belief that an open study of the architecture and society in which Shakespeare played will be enriching.

The Globe brings together the knowledge and expertise of academics, actors, architects and audiences. It is a laboratory and a place of discussion, and will continue to be so for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
MARK RYLANCE (Artistic Director),
International Shakespeare Globe
Centre Ltd,
Bear Gardens, Southwark, SE1.
November 6.

Success in the arts

From Mr Adrian Noble and Mr Richard Eyre

Sir, We were delighted to hear John Major's ringing endorsement of British culture, and our theatre in particular, at last night's Lord Mayor's banquet. He entreated us "to parade our virtues" and to "show — at home and abroad — how far Britain has come . . . in the quality of our life and culture".

Surely the Prime Minister cannot be unaware that our success in film, TV and commercial theatre is underpinned by a network of subsidised theatres that is unique and which has been eroded by successive Arts Council freezes? And that a further cut in the next public spending round will have a catastrophic impact on the very culture he rightly boasts of?

We are at the eleventh hour, or the twenty-third if he prefers the European clock. We would urge Mr Major to intervene directly to cherish and invest in our nation's glorious artistic achievements.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN NOBLE
(Artistic Director,
Royal Shakespeare Company),
RICHARD EYRE
(Artistic Director,
Royal National Theatre),
c/o Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
November 12.

Millennium dome

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, In seeking to reassure Lady Panufnik that "money spent on the Millennium Exhibition will not be squandered", the exhibition's chief executive (letter, November 13) has succeeded only in making her point in spades.

We now know that the only jobs to be created by the expenditure of at least £350 million will be in running the temporary exhibition and that the national heritage will be enriched, once the great architectural bubble has been removed, by some landscaped gardens, park and river walk for the lucky residents of Greenwich.

Can the best brains in the country really not come up with a more imaginative, productive and cost-effective way of spending this vast amount of money?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, N1.
November 13.

Business letters, page 31

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Care priorities in NHS hospitals

From Dr J. M. E. Anderson and Dr A. P. Warin

Sir, Over recent weeks there has been considerable debate about the funding of the NHS and the ability of the service to meet the demands which will be placed upon it during the winter months (letters, October 25, November 4). In many trusts beds are closed and operating lists have been cancelled.

In Exeter there is a long tradition of co-operation between general practitioners and hospital consultants. This has been largely maintained since the Government's reforms were introduced five years ago. However, the ability to determine the timing of hospital admission for non-urgent cases on the basis of clinical need has recently been removed from doctors.

In August it became clear that the North and East Devon Health Authority had insufficient funds to finance the volume of work which the Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust could do. As emergency and urgent work has to continue the health authority was obliged to reduce the volume of non-urgent work it could find.

Accordingly some 2,700 patients who would have had their operations before April 1, 1997, have had them deferred until after that date. Twenty operating lists each week have been cancelled. Inevitably waiting lists will grow and staff morale fall.

However, patients whose care is purchased by other health authorities or GP fundholders can continue to be operated on. Thus, for example, the routine patient requiring a hip replacement from a fundholding practice may be operated on before April 1, whereas a patient from an adjacent non-fundholding practice will not. We are running a two-tier system in Exeter. The fundamental principle that the timing of hospital admission should be determined by clinical need has been breached.

This is wholly unacceptable to hospital consultants and general practitioners, whether they be fundholders or non-fundholders, as it is to our managerial colleagues. But the fact is that the health authority does not have the necessary resources to meet the health needs of our local populations.

Government will of course abdicate any responsibility for this by pointing out that it is for the authority to determine its priorities. It has done so by the only route available to it — reducing the amount of non-urgent surgery done in Exeter and letting the waiting lists grow.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. E. ANDERSON
(General Practitioner;
Chairman, North and East Devon
Local Medical Committee),
A. P. WARIN
(Consultant;
Chairman, Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust
Joint Medical Staff Committee),
Royal Devon and Exeter
Healthcare NHS Trust,
Royal Devon and Exeter
Hospital (Wonford),
Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon.
November 12.

Firework risks

From Mr C. B. T. Adams, FRCS

Sir, With the greatest respect to my friend and colleague, Peter Richards (letter, November 9), the aim of boxing is to inflict physical harm, unlike other sports and fireworks.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. T. ADAMS
(Consultant Neurosurgeon),
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
November 9.

Fast footwork

From Mr Adrian Russell

Sir, Steve Coppell has my sympathy. If we are to believe your report (earlier editions, November 9) that "Of Coppell's first five games in charge, City had won two, lost three and drawn one", then this team clearly needs more than normal management skills.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. RUSSELL,
60 High Street,
Lytchett Matravers, Poole, Dorset.

Blair's hair

From Mr N. Meredith Jones

Sir, Mr Michaelides (letter, November 12) is correct. It is what goes on inside Mr Blair's head, not what covers it that matters. However, is that not the point? Mr Blair's hairstyle neatly encapsulates what many people increasingly perceive to be his credo — "bouffant politics" — all appearance and little substance.

Yours faithfully,
N. MEREDITH JONES,
18 Chapel Street, Liverpool 3.
November 13.

From Dr D. G. Wilson

Sir, It is all so unfair. You run a series of letters about hair, so obviously Mr Beard gets his offering printed (letter, November 8). With my name, what topic could I possibly choose in order to attain this distinction?

Yours faithfully,
TIM WILSON,
9 Banhams Close, Cambridge.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 13: The Prime Minister of Jamaica was received by The Queen.

Her Excellency Mrs Tuelonyana Ditlhabi-Oliphant was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Botswana in London.

Mr Oliphant was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Mr Rohinton Mistry (winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize) and Mrs Mistry were received by Her Majesty.

Sir Richard Luce (Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation) and Dr Humayun Khan (Director) were present.

The President of the Republic of Latvia and Mrs Ulmane visited The Queen and remained to Luncheon.

The Prince Edward was present.

The following were invited: His Excellency Dr Valdis Birkavs (Minister for Foreign Affairs), His Excellency Mr Andrejs Krastins (Minister for Defence and Deputy Prime Minister), His Excellency Mr Vilis Kristopans (Minister for Transport), His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia and Mrs Luse, Mr Ivars Millers (Head of Chancery to The President), Sir John Coles, and Mrs and Mrs Nicholas Jarrold.

The Queen invested The President of the Republic of Latvia with the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, this morning presented the Institute of Materials' ninth Prince Philip Award at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, and Twelfth Man, later presented the Lord's Taverners Trophy at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Institute of Materials, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, President, later chaired a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace.

This evening The Duke of Edinburgh attended a Gala Evening for Arts for Nature at the Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 13: The Prince Edward this evening attended a performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, was represented by Mr John Haldane at the Memorial Service for Mr James Gulliver which was held in Glasgow University Chapel today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 13: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new students halls of residence provided by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers for Cordwainers College, Mare Street, Hackney, London E8.

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon visited Hackney Carers Centre, 107 Lower Clapton Road, and attended the Hackney Carers Forum at Sutton House, 2-4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, London E8.

The Princess Royal afterwards visited Homerton Hospital, Homerton Row, Hackney, London E9, and opened the Day Stay Unit.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, this evening attended the Foundation Day Ceremony and Dinner at the University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this evening attended a performance of "Prince of the Pagodas", followed by a reception and supper for the Governors of the Company, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 13: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, this morning attended the Annual General Meeting and subsequently attended the Consultants of the Year Luncheon at One Whitehall Place, London SW1.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Iris Fund, this afternoon attended the "Trends in Ophthalmology" lecture followed by a reception in Governor's Hall, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will attend The Duke of Edinburgh's Award General Council, International Convention Centre, Birmingham, at 10.45. Prince Edward, trustee, will also attend. Later, as patron and trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a dinner at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, at 7.10.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, as Colonel-in-Chief, will attend a reception given by the London branch of the Black Watch Association, Victory Services Club, at 6.45.

The Princess Royal will visit Lanarkshire Carers Centre, 36 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, at 10.45; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a fundraising luncheon hosted by T.C. Young and Son at the Merchants House, 7 West George Street, Glasgow, at 12.15; as patron of Sense — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit the day centre at Sense Scotland, Unit 5, Claremont Centre, 39 Durham Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow, at 2.30; will visit Ashborune Homes at 234 Crow Road, Broomhill, at 4.00 to receive a cheque in aid of the trust; as patron of the British Executive Services Overseas will attend a fundraising reception, City Chambers, at 5.10; and, as President, the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, will attend the annual dinner at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Bothwell Street, at 7.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, will attend a luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club at 12.45.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of the National Electronics Council, will attend the Mountbatten memorial lecture and a dinner at the Institution of Electrical Engineers at 4.00.

Latest wills

Thomas Jason Hassard, of Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,237,672 net.

He left £5,000 each to the Royal Society for the Blind, St Peter's Church, Hook Norton, Imperial Cancer Research, British Red Cross and £1,000 to Hook Norton Parish Council.

Joseph Rossiter Mills, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,119,196 net.

He left £200 to the National Trust, £500 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Leonora Marian Frost, London W8, left estate valued at £2,575,077 net.

She left £500 to The Dogs' Home, Battersea.

Sylvia Anson, of London, SW15 left estate valued at £4,501,586 net.

She left 7½ per cent of residuary estate to the British Technion Society and the Weizmann Institute Foundation.

Alfred Donald Fisher, of Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside, left estate valued at £1,067,833 net.

Ada Borris, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,338,800 net.

PAUL BARKER

The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev David Hope, centre, with the Suffragan Bishop of Warrington, the Right Rev John Packer, left, and the Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev Peter Forster, after their enthronement at York Minster yesterday. The enthronement was Dr Hope's first since his translation to York last year

Memorial services

Lord Fraser of Kilmorack

The Lord Chancellor attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Fraser of Kilmorack held yesterday in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker officiated, assisted by the Rev Stanley Hood, Minister of the Crown Court Church of Scotland, and the Rev Michael Fuller, Priest-in-Charge, St George's, Campden Hill, Kensington, who read the prayers. Mr Malcolm Drummond, brother-in-law, read the lesson and the Hon Angus Fraser, son, read from the works of William Penn. Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, gave an address. During the service Mrs Harriet Roberts, soprano, sang Litanei from Commemoration of All Souls by Schubert.

The Prime Minister was represented by Lord McColl of Dulwich. The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Defence attended. Among others present were:

Lady Fraser of Kilmorack (widow), the Hon Mrs Angus Fraser (daughter-in-law), Mr David Fraser and Mr Oliver Fraser (grandsons), Miss Charlotte Fraser (granddaughter), Mrs David Chambers, Mr and Mrs John Chambers, Mr and Mrs Michael Clare, Mr and Mrs Thomas A Fraser, Miss Philippa Fraser, Mr James Fraser, Mr Anthony Fraser, Miss Jessica Fraser, Miss Matilda Fraser, Peter Fraser, Mrs Jenny Keene, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Fraser, Miss Bryony Fraser, Miss Amy Gough, Mr Roger Green, Mrs J Chambers, Mrs Maurice Hungrecker, Mrs J Keane, Mrs Sylvan Mason, Miss Almi Mason, Mr and Mrs J E Fraser, Mr Edward Fraser, Mr William Chambers, Miss Nikki Keene, Miss Sophie Keene, Mr Graham Keene, Mr John Blomfield.

The Marquess of Ailsa, the Earl of Home, Earl Jellicoe, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl and Countess of Listowell, Viscountess Davidson, Viscount Tonypandy, Viscount Whitelaw, KT, CH, and Viscountess Whitelaw, Lord Ackner, Lord and Lady Aldington, Lord and Lady Ashbourne, Lady Ashdown, Lord and Lady Barber, Lord Blaker, Lady Butler of Saffron Walden, Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Lord and Lady Campbell of Croy, Baroness Carnegy of Lour, Lord and Lady Carr of Hadley, Lord Clark of Kempston, Lord Constantine of Stanmore.

Lord and Lady Elliott of Morpeth, Lord Elton, Lord and Lady Erroll of Hale, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Lord Gray of Contin, Lord and Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Lord Harvington, Lord and Lady Hayhoe, Lord and Lady Holderness, Baroness Hooper, Lord and Lady Hunt of Tanworth, Baroness Hylton-Foster, Lord Jenkin of Roding, Lord and Lady Johnston of Rockport, Lady Killearn, Lord Lawson of Blaby, Baroness Macleod of Borve, Lord Marlesford.

Lord Mottistone, Baroness O'Cathain, Lord Pender, Lord and Lady Peyton of Yeovil, Lord Plummer of St Marylebone, Lady Prior, Lord Pym, Lord Renton, QC, Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Lord Shaw of Northstead, Lord and Lady Simon of Glaisdale, Lady Soames, Lord Stodart of Leaston, Lord Strabolgi, Baroness Strange, Lord and Lady Strathclyde, Lord and Lady Terrington, Lord Thomas of Gwydir, Baroness Trumpington, Lord and Lady Wolfson, Ruth Lady Wolfson, Baroness Young.

Mr Michael Alison, MP, and Mrs Alison, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, the Hon Sir Adam Butler, Mr Paul Channon, MP, Sir Edward du Cann, Lady (Sallie) du Cann, Mr David Hunt, MP, the Hon Douglas Hurd, CH, MP, Mr John MacGregor, MP, Sir Hector Monro, MP, Mrs J Enoch Powell, Mr Richard Ryder, MP, Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, Lady Slaughton, Lady Diana Wolfe-Murray.

The Hon Michael Trend, MP, (representing the Chairman of the Conservative Party), he Hon Sir Richard and Lady Butler, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Sara Morrison, the Hon Sally Plummer, Lady Alexander, Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Sir Colin Cole, Lady Cooper, Sir Anthony and Lady Garner, Sir Paul and Lady Girolami, Sir Philip and Lady Goodhart.

Sir Ian Hunter, Sir John Lacy, Lady Le Gallais, Sir Stuart Newman, Dame Shirley Oxenbury, Sir John Palmer, Dame Simone Prendergast, Sir Robert and Lady Rhodes James, Lady Showering, Sir John and Lady Stokes, Sir Peter Tapsell, MP, Lady Trethowan, Sir William van Straubenzee, Dame Joan Varley, Sir Dennis Walters, General Sir John and Lady Wilsey, Sir Eric Yarrow.

Alderman Gavyn Arthur, Mr John Bowis, MP, Mrs G Burgess, Miss V Burgess, Mr and Mrs David Byam-Cook, Mr and Mrs Edward Byam-Cook, Mr P Byam-Cook, Mr Ronald Carr-Ellison, Mr and Mrs Christopher Clarke, Mr and Mrs C J Cleugh, Mr A J C Cochrane, Mr Alistair Cooke, Mrs Colin Craig, Mr P J Cropper, Mr Peter Cropper, Mr Michael Davies, Professor and Mrs Alfred de Grazia, Wing Commander H P Dixon, Mrs Gerald Draper, Mr R W Evans, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Mr Roger Evans, MP.

Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP, Mrs J Hall, Mr and Mrs Derek Hambleden, Mrs Nigel Hamway, Mrs Adrian Head, Miss Angela Hooper, Dr and Mrs Kenneth Hughes-Jones, Major Colin Hunter, Mr Robert Jackson, MP, Colonel Michael Kaye, Mrs Diana Kemp-Welch, Mr Andrew Lansley, Mrs Michael Lloyd Owen, Mrs David Lloyd Owen, Mrs Rowan MacAnslan, Mrs D Meinertzhagen, Mrs Edward Mocatta.

Mrs Diana Quilter, Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, Mr Mark Rittner, Mr and Mrs Rivers Scott, Mr Stephen Sherbourne, Mr and Mrs Jock Smith, Mr John R Smoker, Mr William Stephens, Mr Donald Stringer, Councillor Mrs Frank Taylor, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs P Tindal-Carill-Worsley, Mrs Colin Welch, District Judge Christopher Wigfield, Mr Rory Wolfe-Murray, Mrs Michael Wolff, Miss Lucy Wolff, Mrs John Wright.

Mr M T Thyne (Headmaster, Fettes College), Mr Lindsay Keith (chairman, London Old Fettesian Association) and Mrs Keith, Mr Robert Esden (clerk to the council, Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor), Mr David Butler (Exeter College) and Professor David Dilks (Vice-Chancellor, Hull University).

Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Tucker regret that they were unable to attend the memorial service for Lord Fraser of Kilmorack due to absence abroad.

Dame Jane Drew

A memorial gathering to celebrate the life of Dame Jane Drew, architect, was held yesterday at the Architectural Association, Bedford Square, London, WC1. Ms Marina Adams presided. Dr Alan Powers, Mr Gordon Graham, Miss Kathleen Raine, Mrs Shireen Madavi, Baroness Brigstocke, Mr Viren Sahai, Miss Kate Mackintosh and Miss Leonie Milliner also spoke.

Mr Nico Colchester

A memorial service for Mr Nico Colchester, editorial director, Economist Intelligence Unit, was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. The Very Rev Colin Slee, Provost, officiated. Mr Charlie Colchester, brother, read the lesson and Mr David Bell, Executive Director of Pearson, read from the works of John Donne. Mr Richard Lambert, Editor of the Financial Times, and Mr Robin Lane Fox gave addresses. Among others present were:

Members of the family: Viscount Blakenham (chairman, Pearson) with Mr James Joll (executive director), Mr Robin Pauley (managing editor, Financial Times), Mr Martin Dickson, Mr Ivor Barry-Jones, Ms Marjorie Scardino (group chief executive, The Economist), Ms Helen Alexander (managing director, Economist Intelligence Unit), Mr Nigel Ludlow, Mr John Parker, Mr Clive Crook, the Hon Johnny Grimond other members of staff and many friends.

Nicholas Verey

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Nicholas Verey will be held at 11.30am on Thursday, January 23, 1997, at St Giles Church, Cripplegate, Barbican, EC2.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Lucas von Hildebrandt, architect, Genoa, 1668; Robert Fulton, pioneer of the steamboat, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1765; Marie Francois Bichat, physiologist, Thoirette, Jura, 1771; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, Kinnordy, Tayside, 1797; John Curwen, music teacher, founder of the tonic sol-fa system, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, 1816; Claude Monet, painter, Paris, 1840; Leo Hendrick Baekeland, inventor of Bakelite, Belgium, 1863; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 1st Prime Minister of India 1947-64, Allahabad, 1889; Sir Frederick Banting, physician, Nobel laureate 1923, Alliston, Ontario, 1891; Aaron Copland, composer, New York, 1900; Michael Ramsey, Baron Ramsey of Canterbury, Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-74, Cambridge, 1904.

DEATHS: Gottfried Leibniz, philosopher, Hanover, 1716; Jean Paul Richter, humourist, Bayreuth, 1825; Sir George Tomline, Bishop of Winchester 1820-27, Wimborne, Dorset, 1827; Georg Wilhelm Hegel, philosopher, Berlin, 1831; Robert Whitehead, inventor of the torpedo, Beckett, Berkshire, 1905; John La Farge, mural painter, Providence, Rhode Island, 1910; Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts, field-marshal, St Omer, France, 1914; Hector Munro (Saki), writer, killed in action, France, 1916; Manuel de Falla, composer, Alta Gracia, Argentina, 1946.

The Jacobites were defeated at Preston and Sheriffmuir, 1715.

The first London to Brighton motor run was held, 1896.

Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by enemy bombs, 1940.

Today's birthdays

King Husain of Jordan celebrates his 61st birthday today.

The Prince of Wales celebrates his 48th birthday today.

Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, Barratt Developments, 69; Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General, United Nations, 74; Mr Quentin Crewe, writer, 70; Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, 69; Mr Paul Dacre, Editor, Daily Mail, 48; Lord Dawson, 48; Mr Michael Dobbs, novelist, 48; Mr David Elstein, head of programmes, BSkyB, 52; Mr Stefano Gabbana, fashion designer, 34; Mr Claes Hultman, chairman, Wembley Group, 50; Mr Peter Katin, concert pianist, 66; Mr Mark Le Fanu, general secretary, Society of Authors, 50; the Earl of Liverpool, 52; Air Marshal Sir Richard Nelson, 89; Mr Patrick Nicholls, MP, 48; Mr David Shaw, MP, 46; Miss Diana Skilbeck, Headmistress, The Queen's School, Chester, 54; Sir Dudley Smith, MP, 70; Sir Joseph Smith, former director, Public Health Laboratory Service, 66; Mr Koji Tatsuno, fashion designer, 34; Sir Arthur Watts, QC, 65; Mr Paul Williams, former MP, 74.

Dinners

HM Government

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House last night to mark the seminar on Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina organised by the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe.

National Liberal Club

Sir Cyril Smith was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the National Liberal Club held last night at Whitehall Place. The Bishop of Chichester, president, was in the chair. Lord Wigoder, QC, also spoke. Among others present were:

Lady Wigoder, Baroness Robson of Kiddington, Lord Rochester, Mr Alan Beith, MP, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Thorpe, the Hon Maurice Robson, Mrs Liz Lynne, MP, and Mr Stephen Bonarjee, club chairman.

Gardeners' Company

Mr Ian Flanagan, Master of the Gardeners' Company, assisted by the Wardens, Mr Peter Franklin and Mr John Palmer, presided and presented the Gardeners' Company prizes to students from Wye College and RHS Wisley at the autumn court dinner held last night at Vintners' Hall. Mr Deputy Richard Saunders and Assistant Christopher Mitchell also spoke.

The Association of Corporate Treasurers

Dr Andreas Prindl, President of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, Chairman of Nomura Bank International and Provost of Gresham College, was the host at the Association's Annual Dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, was the Guest Speaker. Mr Gareth Jones, Chairman of the Association and Managing Director of Treasury and Wholesale Banking, Abbey National, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, CBE, DL, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held on Tuesday, November 12, 1996, at the Royal Society. Mr Michael Jefferson, Dr Nebojša Nakićenović, and Mr Brian Blunden spoke on: "Engineers, Natural Scientists and Social Scientists Working Together".

Lecture

Royal Society

Dr Claude Debru of the Université Louis Pasteur, France, delivered the Royal Society Claude Bernard lecture yesterday to the society at 6 Carlton House Terrace. Dr Dame Anne McLaren, FRS, Foreign Secretary, presided.

Thorney Island Society

Lord Rees-Mogg has been elected President of the Thorney Island Society for the ensuing year.

Appointment

Professor Malcolm Jeeves has been confirmed President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He succeeds Dr Tom Johnston.

University news

Edinburgh

Mr John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, has been appointed an Honorary Professor.

Professor Allan Price has been appointed to the Chair of Radiation Oncology.

Professor Richard Thomson has been appointed to the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Art.

Professor Gordon D. Murray has been appointed Professor of Medical Statistics.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.D. Farmer
and Miss C.F. Seaman-Hill

The engagement is announced between Guy Davenport, son of Mr and Mrs John Davenport Farmer, of Hale, Cheshire, and Charlotte Fiona, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hill, of Pirton, Hertfordshire.

Flight Lieutenant
P.C.B. Harding
and Miss C.E.M. Holmes

The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs Peter Harding, of Chelsea, London, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holmes, of Brewood, Staffordshire.

Mr R.A. Nunn
and Miss C.L. Page

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Major and Mrs Anthony Nunn, of Longburton, Dorset, and Celia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Page, of Putney, London.

Mr J.F. Poë
and Miss E.D. Hand

The engagement is announced between Francis, son of Major and Mrs J.L. Poë, of Loscombe, Dorset, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. Hand, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire and Hindelang, Allgäu.

Mr H.M. Tomlinson
and Miss L.M. McKelvie

The engagement is announced between Humphrey, youngest son of Canon and Mrs Geoffrey Tomlinson, of Brookhouse, Lancaster, and Laura, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roderick McKelvie, of London SW6.

Marriage

Mr W. Fox-Pitt
and Miss C. Channer

The marriage took place on Saturday, November 9, at St Aloysius, Oxford, between Mr William Fox-Pitt, son of Mr and Mrs Oliver Fox-Pitt, of Knowlton Court, Canterbury, Kent, and Miss Candida Channer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Channer, of The Old Rectory, Godington, Bicester. The Very Rev Robert Byrne officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Kate Baker, Lucy Barker, Eleanor Buckley, Ossian Moncrieffe and Hugo Robinson. Lieutenant Daniel Hughes was best man.

A reception was held at The Old Rectory, Godington, and the honeymoon is being spent in the West Indies.

Luncheons

Lunchtime Comment Club

The High Commissioner for Australia was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Lunchetime Comment Club at the Sloane Club yesterday. Mr Rudolph Boam, Chairman of the Lunchtime Comment Club, presided. Mr Austin Mitchell, MP, also spoke.

City Liaison Group

Mr Alistair Darling, Opposition Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the City Liaison Group held yesterday at the Brewery, Chiswell Street. Mr Francis Sitwell presided.

Service dinner

HMS Sultan

Rear-Admiral T.W. Loughran, Flag Officer Naval Aviation, proposed the toast to the Men of Taranto at a dinner held last night at HMS Sultan to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Taranto. Commander D.W. Pond, RN, presided.

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Ephesians 4 : 23,24

BIRTHS

CALLAGHAN - On November 7th 1996 in Gibraltar, to Katharine (née Coleman) and Bruno, a son, Augustus Frederick Hugh Bruno, a brother for Olivia and Beatrix.

CAPLAN - On September 25th 1996 at Princess Alexandra Hospital, to Geraldine (née McGovern) and John, a son, Conor John.

COLLINS - To Susi (née Greenwood) and Adrian on 1st November 1996, a son, Theodore Oliver Mauldon, a brother for Bertie.

CONINGSBY BROWN - On 9th November 1996, to Lucy and Julian, a daughter, Sophie Imogen, a sister for William.

CRAWFURD - On November 11th, to Amy (née Villiers-Smith) and Edward, a daughter, Georgina Olivia, a sister for Emma.

DELANEY - Sara and David are proud to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Morgan Delaney, on 2nd November 1996 at Queen Charlotte's.

GAVIN - On November 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Ellen and Rupert, a beautiful little girl, Alexandra Sarah David.

HENRY - On November 12th 1996, to Jane (née Swallow) and Richard, a daughter, Ella Charlotte Fleur, a sister for Tom.

HOSKIN - On 4th November, to Rebecca (née Pearce Higgins) and Edmund, a daughter, Jessica Lucy Rose, a sister for Charlotte.

MARLAR - On 9th November, to Patricia (née Higgins) and James, a son, George Robin.

McDOWELL - On 8th November in Los Angeles, to Kirsten (Everberg) and Alexander, a daughter, Oona Quinn Kingsley.

NICHOLLS - On November 7th 1996, to 'Hoggy' (née Hogg) and Mark, a son, Rory Benjamin, by express delivery, a brother for Archie.

PETIT-PIERRE - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Andi and Samuel, a son, Jonah Charles.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

MORRIS:HELM - 14th November, 1946. Dorothy Joan to Richard Holywell. At the Cathedral Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, Kuching, Sarawak by The Right Revd. Christopher Hollis, Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak.

DEATHS

BLACKMORE - David Killoch, CBE, DSc, FRCVS Suddenly and peacefully at home (371 Albert Street, Palmerston North, NZ) on November 10th 1996.

CASE - On November 10th peacefully at her home, Mary Joan Case, M.R.C.V.S. (née Farman) Director, Case Bros. Florist of "MIRAMAR", Lisvane, Cardiff. Much loved mother of Rowena, Jonathan and Nicholas, devoted Grandmother of Eleanor, Alexander, Emily, Edward, Charles and India. Funeral Service at St Denys Church, Lisvane, Cardiff on Monday November 18th at 10.30 am, followed by service and interment at St John the Evangelist Church, Kingsdown, nr. Deal on Tuesday November 19th at 2pm. Family flowers only donations in lieu for the Animal Health Trust may be sent to James Summers & Son, Roath Court Funeral Home, Newport Road, Cardiff, CF2 1XP.

CHURCH - On November 10th, very peacefully in his parents' home, Simon Christopher, aged 33, treasured son of Rhoda and John, dearly loved brother of Jonathan, Martin and Susannah, much loved brother-in-law of Eleanor and uncle of Cecily. Funeral on Friday November 15th at 3.15 pm at St James' Church, Gerrards Cross. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Christians in Sport, Simon Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 93, Oxford OX2 7YP. Service of Thanksgiving for Simon's life on Saturday December 7th at 2.30 pm at St James' Church. "My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him" Psalm 62:1.

DONALD - Gertrude died peacefully at Brookline, Mass on November 8th aged 105. A great friend to many British evacuees in WW II. Memorial Service 1st Unitarian Church, Milton, Mass, 2 pm November 17th.

COLVILE - On November 10th suddenly but peacefully at home in Chepstow, Philip aged 74, youngest son of the late Canon and Mrs Colvile and dearly loved brother of Rhoda. Funeral at St Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow, 2pm Tuesday November 19th. No flowers. Donations in lieu to The Gardener's Benevolent Fund may be sent to J. James & Sons, 8 Church Road, Chepstow, Mon. tel: (01291) 622371.

EDNEY - On November 7th Patience, of Camden Town, died in Madrid aged 85. Widow of Eric, mother of Robert and grandmother to Adam and George. Funeral to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on 21st November at 11 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the International Brigade Association or Intermediate Technology, c/o Ronald F. Sherry, 25 Bell Street, Paddington, London NW1 5BY.

EVERSON - Alan George on November 10th 1996. Funeral Service on Tuesday November 19th at 11 am at All Saints, Castle Avenue, Highams Park, London. Flowers to James Hawes Funeral Director, tel: (0181) 527-1508 or donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

EVISON - Molly, suddenly on November 8th in St Helier Hospital, Sutton, aged 82. Much loved aunt of Derek, Beryl, Peter and Janet, great-aunt and great-great-aunt. Enquiries to W.A. Truelove of Wallington, Surrey, tel: (0181) 647-1032.

GOCHER - Win, widow of Ted Gocher, peacefully in Bristol on 11th November 1996. Loving and much loved mother of Sue and Richard, mother-in-law of Carey and proud grandmother of Gavin, James, David and Robert. Cremation 1.30 pm Monday 18th November, Canford Crematorium, Bristol. Memorial service and committal, 11.30 am Friday 22nd November, St Mary's Chilbolton, nr. Winchester. No flowers by request but donations to the National Deaf Children's Society, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8PD.

GORE - Marian, peacefully with all our prayers on 12th November at National Hospital for Neurology, London after a short illness. Much loved wife of Toby and mother of Fiona, Juliet, Tessa and Stephanie. Funeral on Wednesday 20th November 12.30 pm at All Saints Church, Binfield. Family flowers only. Donations to Eating Disorders Association c/o Lovegrove (F/D), DP House, The Rings, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1AX.

GREGORY SMITH - Margaret (née Warrington), died 20th October 1996, aged 78, after a long illness. Widow of Archibald Gregory Smith, she will be missed by her stepdaughters Jennifer, her stepson Martin and his wife Elise, and their children Jeremy and Katie, to whom she was a devoted Granny.

HOLLOWAY - On November 12th 1996, peacefully in Buckland Hospital, Ivy, aged 92 years, of Walmer, Deal. Widow of Stanley, mother of the late Joy and Nana to Naomi, Sarah and Deborah. Will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

HOPKINS - Geoffrey on 11th November 1996 peacefully at home after long illness, beloved husband of Joan, formerly of Port Talbot, Royal Naval College, Greenwich and Guildford Technical College. Funeral Service Guildford Crematorium Monday 18th November at 3 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Group, Guildford, c/o Ayling Funeral Directors, Guildford, GU2 6NY.

HURLEY - On November 9th 1996, Christine (Tina, Chris) née Baker, suddenly aged 66 years. Loving and loved mother of Rupert and Justin, sister of David and Pauline. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Enquiries to J.H.Kenyon 0171 937 0757.

INGRAM - James Christopher on 12th November in Warwick Hospital aged 85. Beloved husband of Margaret and dearly loved father of Miranda and Griselda. Funeral at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Wellsbourne, on Tuesday November 19th at 11 am.

MOORHOUSE - Lady Diana Merial, aged 89, granddaughter of the 3rd Earl of Leicester, at Gerrards Cross on 13th November.

JONES - Emrys Geoffrey, died suddenly at home on 3rd November 1996. Dearly loved son of Ernest and Eirwen. A private funeral took place at Oxford Crematorium on Wednesday 13th November 1996. May he rest in peace.

MUSK - On November 12th 1996. Peacefully in Kingston Hospital Albert Charles Edward CVO aged 93 years. Former Director of Coutts Bank and dearly beloved husband of Kathleen. Funeral Service 11.30 am Wednesday 20th November at Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Royal Life Saving Society c/o Coutts & Co., Trustee Department, 440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS.

RAYNOR - E. Jean, widow of Prof. G.V. Raynor FRS. Suddenly at home on November 9th 1996 aged 78 years. Service at St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham, on Thursday November 21st at 11 am followed by committal at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham. No flowers please. Donations if desired to St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0BB.

RICKELMAN - On 12th November 1996, peacefully at home, Boris, cellist, aged 84, beloved husband of Rosemary. Cremation on Monday, 18th November, at 9.45 am at West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds.

WILLS - Peacefully at home on November 11th, Juliet Eve, devoted wife of the late Sir Edward Wills Bt. Funeral 2.30 pm at Shalbourne Church on Tuesday 19th November. Family flowers only. No letters please. Donations, if desired, to Arthritis & Rheumatism Council, c/o Thomas Free & Sons, The Parade, Marlborough.

YOUNG - Harold James, formerly of Grantown-on-Spey, died peacefully aged 82 on 12th November at home in Great Bookham. Much loved husband of Betty, father of Kathleen, Gordon and Duncan and eight grandchildren. He will be much missed. Family funeral. No flowers Please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

NEUBERGER - A Memorial Service for Professor Albert Neuberger CBE, FRS, will be held on Thursday 28th November 1996 at 6.30 pm at St John's Wood Synagogue Grove End Road, NW8.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

YOUNG - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Clive Hamilton Young will be held at the Arthur Thomson Hall, Birmingham Medical School, on Wednesday 20th November at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO SEND IN CLAIMS
MICHELIN (RUBBER PURCHASING) LIMITED
Company No: 1176093

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company are required on or before the 31st March 1997, to send in their names and addresses, with particulars of their Debts or Claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned James John Gleave, of Arthur Andersen, Bank House, 9 Charlotte Street, Manchester M1 4EU, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said Liquidator, are by their Solicitors or personally to come in and prove their said Debts or Claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. (This notice is purely formal and all known Creditors have been, or will be, paid in full).

J. J. Gleave, Liquidator
Dated: 1st November 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In the Matter of
MICHELIN (RUBBER PURCHASING) LIMITED
In Liquidation

I, J.J. Gleave, of Arthur Andersen, Bank House, 9 Charlotte Street, Manchester M1 4EU, give notice in accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that I was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 1st November 1996 by the Members.
J.J. Gleave,
Liquidator

WESTGATE PRESS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 29th November 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 11th November 1996
B.B. HUMPHRIES, Director

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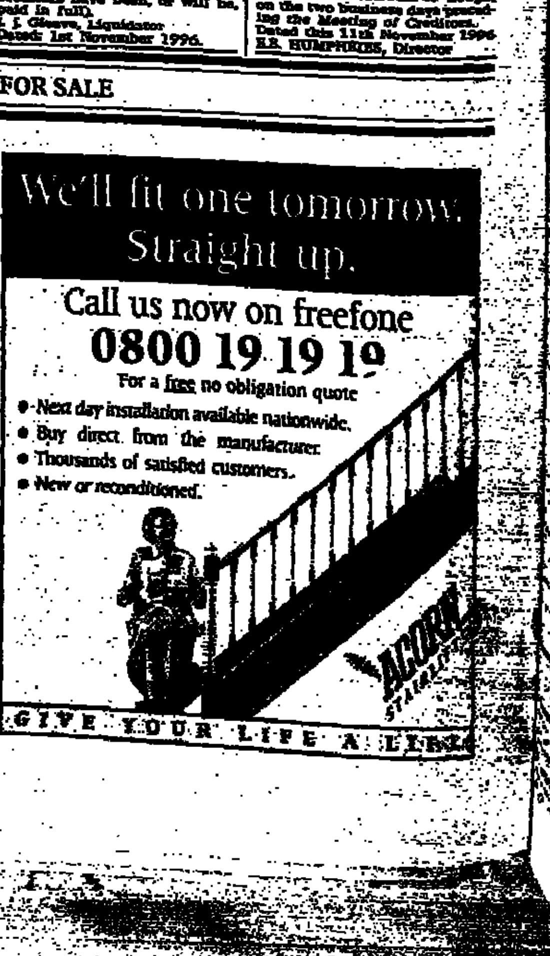

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OBITUARIES

SQUADRON LEADER JACK CURRIE

Squadron Leader Jack Currie, DFC, wartime bomber pilot and author, died on October 19 aged 74. He was born on December 7, 1921.

The strategic air offensive against Germany produced many memoirs from the men who flew the RAF's bombers. In the front rank of these stand three books: Leonard Cheshire's *Bomber Pilot*, Guy Gibson's *Enemy Coast Ahead*, both published during the war, and Jack Currie's *Lancaster Target* (1977).

Currie's book, written thirty years after the war, benefits from its writer's sureness of touch and maturity, while losing nothing of the freshness of either the author's youth or the experiences it describes. It captures exactly the mood of the bomber crews: exuberant, irreverent, pragmatic and humorous; it also reveals, with characteristic understatement, the bonds of loyalty which united a good crew.

Jack Currie was brought up in Harrow, where he attended the local grammar school. On the outbreak of war he volunteered for aircrew and, while awaiting acceptance, worked as a stretcher-bearer in ARP and as an ambulance driver in London during the Blitz.

Finally, in 1941, he was selected for pilot training under the Arnold Scheme, in which RAF pupil pilots were trained in America by the United States Army Air Corps. He later described his flying training experiences in *Wings over Georgia* (1989), in which he paid tribute to his two remarkable American flying instructors. He found the discipline of the US Army Air Corps infinitely more irksome than that of the RAF. During his training he collected a record number of "demerits" and only just avoided being taken off the pilot training programme for illicit low flying.

Although his flying skills saved the day, they also nearly prevented him from returning to join Bomber Command, since he was offered a commission to remain in America as a flying instructor. He declined and, as a sergeant-pilot, returned to the UK to take part in the bomber offensive which, in early 1943, was beginning to build up towards its eventual climax.

In *Lancaster Target* he described how, in the scrum of aircrew in the drill hangar at Lichfield, he assembled his crew without making "a single conscious choice". Instinct served him well: during a period when Bomber Command's losses often reached 5 per cent on a given raid and few crews completed their 30 operations, Currie's survived. His tour on Lancasters based at RAF Wickenby lasted from July 1943 until January 1944, he and his crew participating in two of Harris's major offensives: the devastatingly effective summer assault on Hamburg and the (at best) "drawn" winter Battle of Berlin.

There were many brushes with death. In August 1943, tossed about like a toy in an electric storm over Hamburg, Currie's Lancaster went into a spin in which it fell 10,000 ft and its ailerons were ripped off.

By supreme skill — and a measure of sheer brute strength — Currie brought his aircraft home and landed it safely, using his engines and rudder. While incredulous engineers inspected the aircraft to discover how Currie had managed this feat, his CO recommended him for an immediate Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Although the award did not materialise, Currie's reputation as a determined pilot was made and he was subsequently commissioned. Later that month his crew shot down a German night-fighter over Peenemünde. Nine of his operations were against Berlin and on his return from his 30th operation he was awarded the DFC.

He and his crew wanted to return to Lancaster operations, but their efforts were thwarted by the authorities. At last, early in 1945, Currie managed to join the Pathfinders' 1409 Weather Flight, with which he was flying Mosquitoes when the war in Europe ended. He later described these experiences in his book *Mosquito Victory* (1983).

During the war Currie had married a WAAF officer, Nina Gracie, and they had three children. The marriage was later dissolved.

After the war he was granted a regular commission and he retired from the RAF in 1964. He spent some time in charge of Civil Defence training in Nottinghamshire before joining the staff of the Home Office's Home Defence College at Easingwold, near York.

In retirement, he settled in Easingwold; there most of his writing was done at the bar of the George pub, where he was a fixture. Beneath a photograph of a Lancaster and beside a pint of draught Guinness, he revisited his past and brought it vividly to life in his books. *Lancaster Target* inspired an award-winning BBC television documentary, *The Lancaster Legend*, which was presented by Currie. This led to two further television programmes, including a fascinating investigation of airfield ghosts. Squadron life was never far from his thoughts and the pilot's impertinent irreverence for authority never left him.

Currie wrote several other books, which, while they were not necessarily about his own experiences, vividly described episodes of the war in the air. *The Augsburg Raid* was an account of the celebrated but forlorn attack on the MAN U-boat diesel engine factories in the city on April 17, 1942 — the first long-range sortie by Lancasters. *Battle under the Moon* was about an attempt to knock out a large concentration of enemy tanks in Normandy in July, 1944.

Round the Clock, written with Philip Kaplan, was a graphic account of the day and night bombing offensive as carried out by the US Eighth Army Air Force and RAF Bomber Command. Drawing on the personal reminiscences of individual aircrew members, it provided an insider view not only of the raids themselves, but of the nerve-racking wait to go into action; the silent appearance of the RAF police in the billets to take away the kit of those who had not returned; the desperate partying between missions.

In retirement nothing diminished Currie's love for the Lancaster. A highlight of his later years was when he sat once more in the cockpit of the Battle of Britain Flight's Lancaster and took the controls one summer's day high over Lincolnshire. His bond with the British and Australian survivors of his Lancaster crew and with the Canadian navigator of his Mosquito, forged in wartime, were never broken.

Currie is survived by his second wife Kate, and by the son and two daughters of his first marriage.

ROHAN BUTLER

Rohan Butler, CMG, historian, died on October 30 aged 79. He was born on January 21, 1917.

FOR MOST of his active life Rohan Butler's energies were divided between editing the *Documents on British Foreign Policy 1919-1939*, and his 18th-century historical studies, centred on the life and times of Louis XV's chief minister, the Duc de Choiseul. In parallel with these tasks he undertook the duties of Historical Adviser to the Foreign Secretary from 1963 to 1982.

Butler was a success as Historical Adviser because he made it his business to be *au fait* with the relevant political and diplomatic circumstances and expressed sound commonsense views. Among the special studies that he made, his analysis of the lessons to be learnt from the Abadan crisis of 1951 (recently published by HMSO) permanently influenced Foreign Office thinking.

Rohan D'Olier Butler was the younger son of Sir Harold Beresford Butler of the family of the dukes of Ormonde. From 1929 to 1938 Butler's home was at Geneva, where his father was head of the International Labour Office. He went to prep school at Summer Fields in Oxford. From there he entered Eton, as an Oppidan, in 1930.

In the sixth form at Eton Butler's interest in history was given direction by Robert Birley, then senior history beak. Birley used to hand pupils whom he wished to encourage slips of paper with names on them, asking for reports on whatever could be discovered about the named persons. Among the names given to Butler was that of the Duc de Choiseul.

Butler entered Balliol as a commoner in 1938 and read Modern History. His principal tutor was Humphrey Sumner, subsequently Warden of All Souls, who focused his ambition to become an historian. In 1938 he was awarded first-class honours and elected to a fellowship at All Souls.

During the rise of Nazi power in the late 1930s, Butler derived extra knowledge of Nazi ideology from his elder brother, Euan, who was correspondent of *The Times* in Berlin. Rohan became aware that the Nazi creed incorporated elements that could be traced back to the 18th century in German political and philosophical writings; and from the study of these he rapidly wrote his *Roots of National Socialism* (1941), which deserved more acclaim than it immediately achieved.

On the outbreak of war Butler volunteered for the Navy but was not accepted on medical grounds. Employed in the Ministry of Information and the Special Operations Executive between 1939 and 1944, he was living in central London during the worst of the Blitz.

His service in the Ministry of Information was interrupted by call-up into the Army in 1941 and a period of nine months ensued during which he served as a private in the Pay Corps. He was humorously proud of this experience.

In 1944 Butler was transferred from the Ministry of Information to the Foreign Office, where he helped to plan for the Allied occupation of Germany and Austria. This work was varied. He designed new postage stamps for Austria and, at the other end of the scale, was instrumental in proposing the formal suppression of the State of Prussia.

After the end of the war Butler accepted the invitation of E. L. Woodward to join him in editing for publication a comprehensive selection of the documents in the British Foreign Office archive for the years between the two world wars, under the title of *Documents in British foreign policy 1919-1939*.

Meanwhile he was deciding to write a *magnum opus* on 18th-century European history. No scholarly monograph existed on the Duc de Choiseul, for many years the most influential statesman in Europe. Eventually, the first volume of Butler's *Choiseul* came out in 1980. It was generally well received.

The detailed information given in the book was especially noteworthy; and one reviewer commented that it was useful to keep it handy in case one needed to know the names of the pear trees in the orchard at Stainville in 1720. Recognition of Butler's achievement was particularly warm in France where he received the great honour for a foreigner of being elected Laureate of the Institut, with the award of the Prix Jean Debrousse.

A good deal of the groundwork for the intended second volume of *Choiseul* had been accomplished by Butler before his death, and it is to be hoped that another scholar may be able to utilise it constructively.

Altogether Rohan Butler edited 12 volumes of the 1919-39 Foreign Office documents. After that he planned the succeeding postwar series with the new title *Documents on British policy overseas*. He edited the first volume of this latter series himself. It appeared in 1984.

Butler was also able to find time for other writing. His last scholarly article, recounting his discovery of a secret treaty of 1753 between the kings of France and Naples, is due to be published within the next few months.

In 1982 he finally retired from the Foreign Office and in 1984 gave up his active fellowship at All Souls to become a Fellow Emeritus. All Souls was certainly one of the chief interests and influences in his life. From 1961 to 1963 he conscientiously undertook the duties of Sub-Warden. Few things gave him more pleasure than having his initials cut in a window pane in his college study.

None of the distinctions conferred upon Rohan Butler affected his innate modesty. He had high standards of behaviour and morality, and admired those with a sense of style; so he was far from being uncritical. But he was invariably courteous and naturally kind. Patient, and unselfish with his talents and time, he would have made a good teacher.

He is survived by his wife Lucy Rosemary, and three stepdaughters.

PAULA HINTON

Paula Hinton, dramatic ballerina, died in Birkenhead on November 5 aged 72. She was born in Ilford on June 1, 1924.

AS A dramatic ballerina, Paula Hinton had few rivals and no betters in the last half century. For about 30 years from the late 1940s her performances brought intense theatrical excitement to a wide range of roles. Nobody could tear a passion to tatters more wholeheartedly, yet never with any lack of subtlety and depth.

For much of her career, Hinton was seen most frequently in parts made for her by her husband, the choreographer Walter Gore. It was with *Antonia* in 1949, for Ballet Rambert, that they first unambiguously showed the power of their collaboration. This story of an irresistibly fascinating slut murdered by her lover came too soon after Roland Petit's notorious *Carmen* with Zizi Jeanmaire to escape comparison, but it lived up to the challenge with emphatic panache.

Among the highlights of their fruitful subsequent cooperation must be counted *Eaters of Darkness* (first given in Frankfurt as *Die im Schatten leben*), a frightening study of a woman wrongly consigned to an asylum, who goes mad in consequence. Created to Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*, it had to be given in silence at its British premiere because of a musicians' dispute, but still gripped the audience through the quality of the dancing.

Yet this was only one out of three outstanding roles made by Gore for Hinton within the single year of 1958. In *The Magical Being* she was a creature rather like the traditional firebird of Russian legends, destroying the men who hunted her; then came *Night and Silence*, a duet about jealousy, to Bach music in which David Poole was Hinton's partner with the Edinburgh Festival Ballet. The work, fortunately, lasted longer than that undeservedly short-lived company, being taken up by Rambert and later by Gore's own company.

Hinton was already in her mid-teens when she started to dance: she was acting in a pantomime in Liverpool and, watching the ballets in it, decided she liked them enough to want to do that herself. After studying locally with Miss Delamere-Wright, she made her dancing debut in 1943 as Helen of Troy in an Old Vic *Tragedy of Faustus* at the Playhouse, Liverpool, and she joined Ballet Rambert the next year.

Her first roles came quickly in works by Frederick Ashton (the Milkmaid in *Façade*), Frank Staff (the Duck in *Peter and the Wolf*) and Antony Tudor (Juno in *Judgment of Paris*). She had rapidly acquired an academic technique strong enough for the *Swan Lake* pas de trois, a commanding Queen of the Wilis in *Giselle* or Estrella in *Carnaval*; and Gore gave her one of the leads in his *Plaisance*.

Hinton came to fuller prominence during the protracted Rambert tour of Australia in 1947-48, notably in *Winter Night*, a symphonic ballet à clef to Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto in which Gore, hitherto closely linked with the company's leading woman, Sally Gilmour, autobiographically cast her, Hinton and himself in a relationship where a man abandons one woman for another. Hinton and Gore married in 1950 but the two women contrived to remain good friends.

Gore and Hinton left Rambert in 1950 (although she returned more than once as guest, most recently in 1964 for the premiere of Gore's *Sweet Dancer*). Hinton danced as guest in the final season of de Basil's Original Ballet Russe, where she glittered in the title role of Fokine's *Coq d'Or*. She also took part in the early seasons of Festival Ballet (now English National), for whom she danced Giselle among other parts. Invited to the Ballets des Champs-Elysées in Paris, Gore made *La Damnée* for her.

Thereafter the couple worked in several countries. Australia, Germany, Norway and Portugal were all on their intinerary. Twice they had their own touring company in Britain, as the Walter Gore Ballet, 1953-55, and the London Ballet, 1961-63. This fragmentation of her career prevented Hinton's achievement — or Gore's — from being as conspicuous as it deserved, but those who realised her exceptional gifts would gladly put themselves to trouble for any opportunity to see her.

Fortunately, such special occasions did intermittently arise: she appeared with Northern Dance Theatre, for instance, and once saved Western Theatre Ballet from a crisis caused by its own dancers' injuries, by hurriedly learning the lead in Peter Darrell's *The Prisoners* and giving a shattering account of it in spite of the short notice.

One vital factor in her success was that she never gave less than her absolute best, whether at an important premiere or in a small civic hall. For Hinton, it was the art and the audience that mattered, not the occasion.

She was besotted by animals and especially birds. She befriended injured pigeons and cared for them in her dressing room or at home. Once, when one flew away, she got Gore to telephone and inquire whether *The Times* could ask its readers to look out for the stray, quite oblivious of the difficulty of identifying one particular grey pigeon in London.

Since her husband's death in 1979 she was especially eager to preserve the memory of his ballets, and retained her enthusiasm to the end. They had no children.

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ON THIS DAY

November 14, 1917

* * *

This account was sent by a war correspondent with the New Zealand forces, and took a month to reach The Times. The account began by describing the location of the battle, using such names as Adler House, Peter Pan, Marsh Bottom and Wolf Copse

EYE-WITNESS AT PASSCHENDAELE

... Our men came up against uncut wire unexpectedly. It was thick across the whole Bellevue Spur, and was of the low picket pattern, 2ft. 6in. high, and varying from 20 to 40 yards in depth. Here were the most adverse conditions possible for an attack — greasy mud, water-logged shell-holes, concrete redoubts fronted with wire and crammed full with machine-guns and their crews. But, in addition to all this, the artillery had the greatest difficulty in getting up their guns. Some of them could not be got up at all. Others that did get up had difficulty in carrying on, for after a shot or two had been fired their trails slipped in the mud, so that accurate shooting became extremely difficult. The sum total of this was that the infantry had not all the splendid protective barrage that they had become accustomed to, the wire remained partly uncut, and most of the pill-boxes remained unshocked. Following the thin barrage, the advancing waves of infantry found themselves raked with machine-gun fire, sniped with rifles, and even shot at by machine-gunners perched on platforms in the almost brancless trees ahead. Deeds of the most glorious heroism were being enacted. Conditions were such that it was a physical impossibility to bite deep into such system of defence until it had been further reduced by more intense artillery fire. Otago and Canterbury troops were concerned in the attack on the Bellevue Ridge. Just at the beginning of the attack a colonel of the Canterburys was killed outright by a bursting shell. A signalling sergeant then went forward under heavy shell and machine-gun fire to find a certain captain and bring him back to command the battalion. When he got forward he found this captain had been wounded. The sergeant then went across the line — still under fire — to find the next senior officer. When he reached this officer's company he found that he was also wounded. The sergeant then returned to head-quarters, only to find that the officers he had left there had become casualties. Thereupon he established communication with a divisional station, and again went forward to find a lieutenant to take command of the battalion. After about an hour's search he found the lieutenant he was looking for, and guided him back to head-quarters, where the lieutenant took command. The sergeant then returned to take command of his signallers, and remained with them until he was relieved.

Together, we keep you moving.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1996

NEWS

Britain to send troops to Zaire

Britain decided to send a substantial contingent of troops — expected to be at least 1,000 — to Zaire as part of an international force to save 1.5 million refugees from starvation.

John Major spoke to President Clinton about the effort needed after a meeting of the Cabinet's overseas policy and defence committee agreed that an "urgent response" was required. The biggest force would be 3,500 troops from 5 Airborne Brigade, the rapid deployment unit .... **Pages 1, 19**

Economic optimism lifts Tory support

■ Tory support in the polls has jumped to its highest level since early 1993, according to the latest MORI poll in *The Times*. Dissatisfaction with the Government and John Major has declined to the lowest levels since just after the last election and the public is now more optimistic about the economy .. **Page 1**

Last questions

The husband of a woman fatally bludgeoned at an Oxfordshire beauty spot told a court he tried to keep her alive by asking her simple questions about their children .... **Page 3**

Cabbies' despair

Sir Norman Foster's plan for central London includes extensive pedestrianisation and widening of pavements. Taxi drivers will hate it but pedestrians and cyclists will benefit .... **Page 8**

Back to basics

English Heritage called for a revival of traditional stone slate roofing and launched a campaign to protect period buildings from cheap concrete and synthetic imports .... **Page 9**

NHS promise

No medical treament should be ruled out by health authorities on tight NHS budgets, the health secretary said after a White Paper was published................ **Page 10**

Unflighty Wrens

HMS Invincible's Wrens have a commonsense attitude to the "no touching rule" which vindicates the Navy's decision in favour of mixed sex ships .... **Page 11**

Beef protests

Conservative MPs protested after Douglas Hogg admitted that there was little prospect of the European ban on British beef being lifted .... **Page 12**

Legal warning

Recruits to the new Clinton Administration should be sure to have a lawyer on retainer from the day they start work, says George Stephanopoulos, the aide who is leaving.................. **Page 14**

Nazi power struggle

A power struggle has erupted among Europe's neo-Nazis as shadowy businessmen fight to fill the vacuum left by Gary Lauck, the right-wing publisher jailed in Germany in August .... **Page 15**

Fighting famine

The UN World Food Summit in Rome vowed to halve the number of hungry people within twenty years, but it was overshadowed by the more immediate crisis in Zaire .... **Pages 16, 23**

Mountain search

The French Government sent a helicopter to scour the Himalayas *for a holidaying magistrate after* his rebellious deputy opened a sensitive inquiry .... **Page 17**

Crash bodies found

The bodies of 351 people killed in the world's worst mid-air plane collision were recovered from the flat farmlands near Delhi in Haryana .... **Page 18**

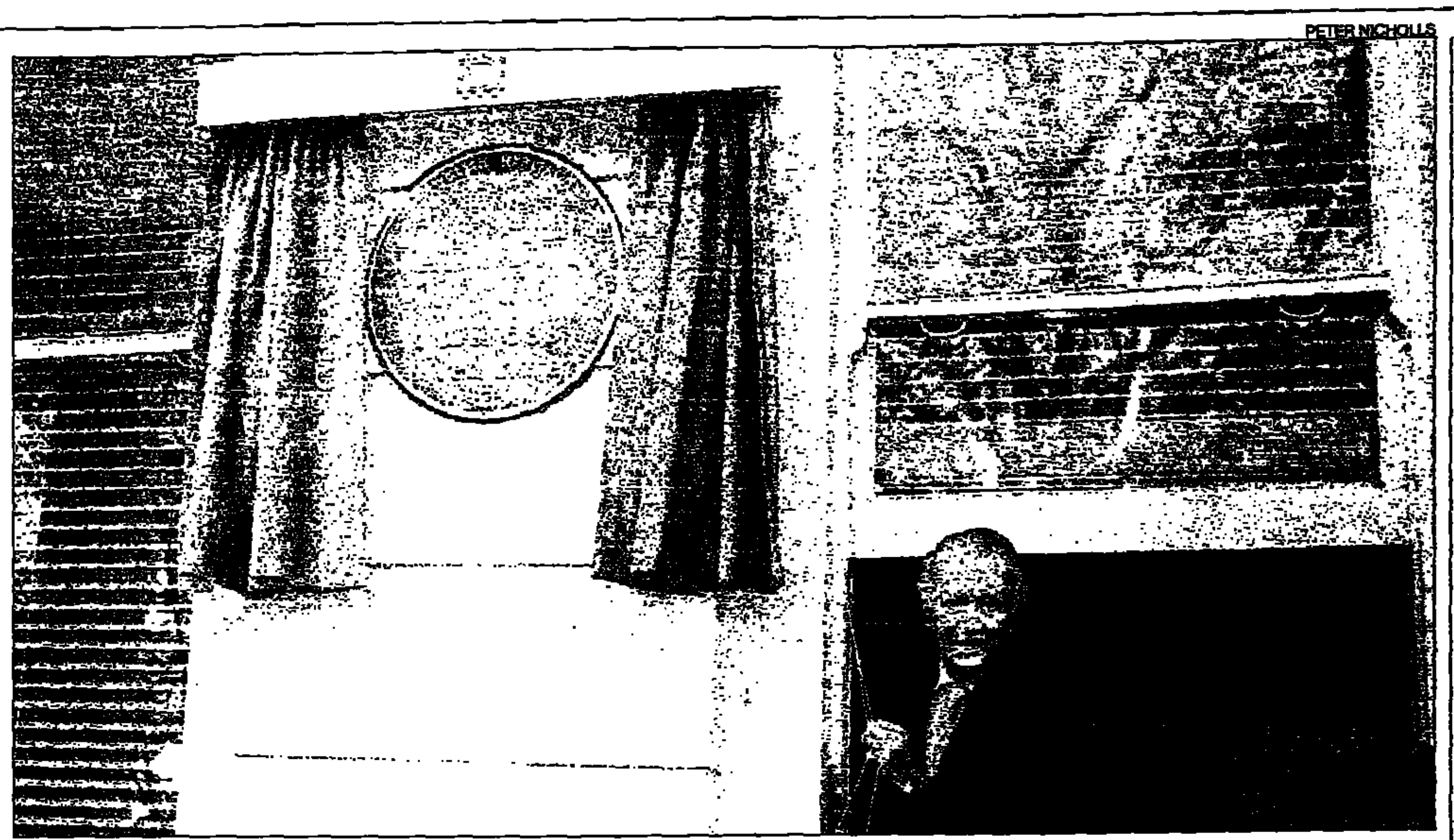
Hutu shelling

Hutu militia continued to shell civilian areas in Goma as Paris offered to send 600 paratroopers in a move calculated to enrage the rebels .... **Page 19**

Computer's cards on the bridge table

■ Bridge-playing computers may be challenging the best human players in a couple of years. Unlike chess, where the position of all the pieces is plain, in bridge you have to guess what cards your opponents hold and work out a plan in advance. The computer's approach is not subtle, nor is it based on the way humans play bridge, but it works....... **Pages 7, 49**

PETER NICHOLLS



Sir John Mills unveiling a plaque for Vivien Leigh outside the flat at 54 Eaton Square, Belgravia, where she lived for nine years

BUSINESS

Power bid: East Midlands Electricity agreed to a £1.3 billion takeover by Dominion Resources, the American energy group ....**Page 27**

Economy: The headline unemployment total dipped below 2 million for the first time in five years. Ministers say the fall in unemployment is set to continue.......**Page 27**

Pensions: Three years after a review into the mis-selling of personal pensions began, only 1 per cent of those involved in the 500,000 most urgent cases have been offered compensation......................**Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 7.4 points to close at 3926.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 90.5 to 91.3 after a rise from $1.6467 to $1.6542 and from DM2.4682 to DM2.4921 ... **Page 30**

SPORT

Rugby union: The Australians beat Connacht 37-20 in Galway after trailing 12-7 at half-time. They have won all tour matches .... **Page 49**

Tennis: The top seeds, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, made progress in the Guardian Direct British national championships at Telford .... **Page 46**

Football: Cambridge United appointed Roy McFarland, the former England centre half, as their manager in succession to Tommy Taylor, who has taken over at Leyton Orient......................... **Page 48**

Swimming: Aleksandr Popov, the Olympic champion at 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle, will return to training next week, almost three months after being stabbed in Moscow............................ **Page 47**

ARTS

New videos: The best family film in ages, *Babe*, is on sale; and Anthony Hopkins and Kenneth Branagh take to the director's chair in two new cinematic efforts .... **Page 40**

Films of the week: Hollywood's big release, *The First Wives Club*, may star the likes of Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton, but it soon topples from feisty comedy to daft farce.................**Page 41**

Lebanese export: The Caracalla Dance Theatre, which survived 17 years of war in Lebanon, brings a frolic through the legend of Dido to London .... **Page 42**

Epic staging: Bernd Alois Zimmermann's massive modern classic, *Die Soldaten*, is coming to the Coliseum in a new staging by English National Opera......... **Page 43**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **COUNTRY MUSIC**
David Sinclair on the rebirth of Johnny Cash and his latest album *Unchained*

■ **EDUCATION**
Where have British schools failed with maths? International experts report

FEATURES

Hands-off training: The latest allegations of abuse and sexual bullying in the US Armed Forces show that the macho mentality persists.............................**Page 21**

BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: One in four hospital patients is schizophrenic: Risperdal could lower those numbers. And how to live longer.............................. **Page 20**

TRAVEL

Far away places: Little-known countries are pouring money into luring holidaymakers to bring in vital income.......................**Page 39**

BOOKS

Uncovery and discovery: Peter Stothard delves into archaeology; Susan Greenfield explores grey matter; George Urban studies the myth of Lenin............ **Pages 44, 45**

FOCUS

Spreading knowledge: British expertise is needed more than ever overseas...................... **Pages 36,37**

THE PAPERS

Britain's unwillingness to accept *restrictions on economic activity is* well known. But its Government now has no option but to accept the ruling of the European Court of Justice on the 48-hour working week — *El Mundo*, Madrid

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Jimmy Nail sings his way into more trouble. *Crocodile Shoes* (BBC1, 10.05pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a dog's life in Sheffield .... **Page 51**

OPINION

A too bold bench

In ruling that the Home Secretary *should have intimated* to the Fayed brothers why he was minded not to grant them citizenship the Court of Appeal is usurping Parliament's authority......................... **Page 23**

Food's flat earthers

People go hungry when they can neither grow enough to feed themselves nor earn enough to buy what they need. It shows the muddled state of the debate that this even needs to be said .... **Page 23**

No bid for computers

It is galling to be beaten at chess by a computer. But no machine has yet written a worthwhile sonnet, translated Homer, deduced a law of nature, or, to set a more realistic target, composed a leading article for *The Times*.................. **Page 23**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Every Labour Government since the war has reduced the freedom of the British labour market, has introduced new regulations, has raised labour costs and enlarged the role of the trade unions — and every Labour Government has seen unemployment rise... **Page 22**

JOHN BRYANT

There was a time when the best a young athlete who dreamt of representing the country could hope for was a Wedgwood biscuit barrel or a silver cigarette case. From today it could be a salary of up to £28,000 a year tax free .... **Page 50**

PETER RIDDELL

The mood on the Tory benches is often described as unusually fractious and rebellious . . . But overall, despite the deep divisions over Europe, there has not been a collapse of party discipline .... **Page 13**

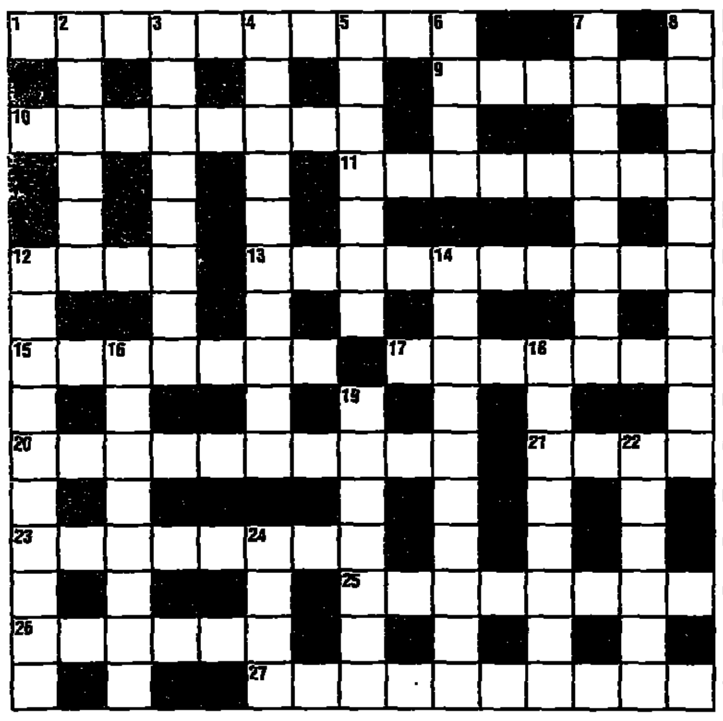
OBITUARIES

Squadron Leader Jack Currie, wartime bomber pilot and author; **Paula Hinton**, dramatic ballerina; **Rohan Butler**, historian ...**Page 25**

LETTERS

48-hour directive; NHS funding; Gorbachev and Katyn; *war poetry*; Blair's hair .... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,325



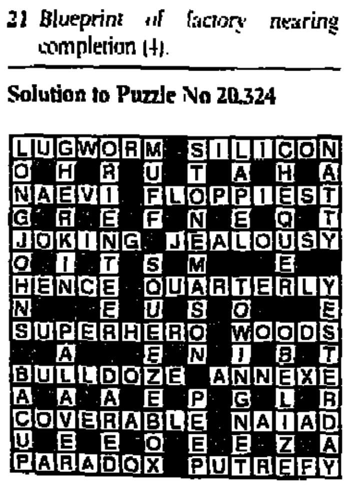
ACROSS

1 Cursor, so to speak, deficient with respect to icons (10).
9 Take out of bar (6).
10 Part of French exercise (8).
11 Position of one calling for a large round (8).
12 Social reformer — with wife, taking on decline (4).
13 Autocratic mood encountered in grammar school (10).
15 Deficiency said to increase cardiac weakness (7).
17 Open University's withdrawn from rash incentive (7).
20 Fiend haunts site, running amok (10).
21 Blueprint of factory nearing completion (4).
23 Schubert's fifth, appropriately in sparkling style (8).
25 Secures goal, providing England's final point (5,3).
26 Instructive text for one working on course (6).
27 Migratory urge of unsettled adult wrens (10).

DOWN

2 Metamorphic forms in a Ravel composition (6).
3 Having no difficulty getting on such a carriage (8).
4 Switches musical works (10).
5 People followed by thieves in these hills (7).
6 Dividing centre of Nevada (4).
7 Bound to be faithful after religious education (8).
8 Rocket-launcher (10).
12 Bottom of the flying class? (6-4).
14 Ready to be posted abroad (10).
16 Bishop, for example, rehearsed item (3,5).
18 Embracing cause of Poles scattered all around America (8).
19 Cub I abandoned in old city (7).
22 A convenience for spies (6).
24 Article wife used for muscular strength (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,324



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.17 am
Sun sets: 4.12 pm

Moon sets 7.28 pm
Moon rises 10.23 am

First quarter November 18

London 4.12 pm to 7.19 am
Bristol 4.22 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 4.0[illegible] pm to 7.50 am
Manchester 4.1[illegible] pm to 7.35 am
Penzance 4.35 pm to 7.36 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales mostly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle moving southeastwards. The southeast is likely to start cold and bright but should become cloudy too, by afternoon.

Scotland will have heavy rain at first in the extreme north and east but this will soon clear. Western and northern parts, and Northern Ireland, will then stay overcast with light drizzle, but some brightness may occur in sheltered southern and eastern areas.

☐ ***London, SE England, Channel Isles:*** Dry and bright at first but becoming cloudy with patchy drizzle later. Wind light and variable. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).

☐ **E Anglia, Cent S England, E Midlands:** *Cloudy with patchy drizzle by late* morning. Wind light south to southwest. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).

☐ **E, Central N, NE England:** Overcast with patchy drizzle. Wind south to southwest light turning westerly later. Max 9C to *11C (48F to 52F).*

☐ **W Midlands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lakes, IoM, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** Overcast. Patchy drizzle. Wind west becoming northwest light to moderate. Max 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** Cloudy with early rain then mostly dry with brightness in places. Wind westerly light to moderate. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

☐ ***Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney,*** **Shetland:** Cloudy. Rain, fairly heavy at first, patchy later. Wind westerly moderate to fresh. Max 10C to 11C (50F to 52F).

☐ **Outlook:** Cloud and rain in the north later spreading to all parts.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

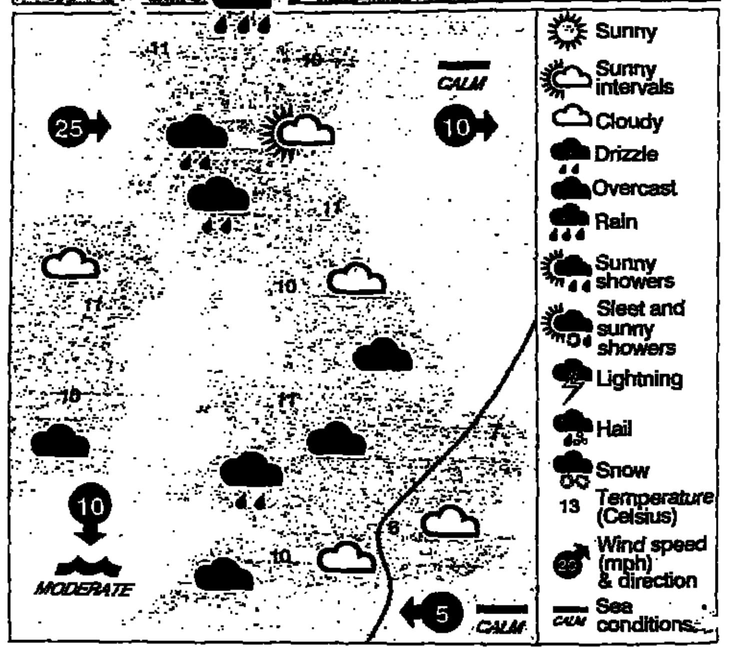
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.3	0.02	6	43	b
Anglesey	-	0.13	9	48	sh
Aspatria	2.8	-	7	45	b
Aviemore	-	0.03	6	43	c
Belfast	0.3	0.07	9	48	r
Birmingham	3.8	-	7	45	b
Bognor R	7.2	-	9	48	s
Bournem'th	6.8	-	9	48	s
Bristol	6.0	-	11	52	s
Buxton	3.3	-	5	41	b
Cardiff	5.2	-	10	50	s
Clacton	4.3	0.01	7	45	s
Cromer	1.0	0.04	9	48	c
Eastbourne	7.0	-	9	48	s
Edinburgh	1.9	-	9	49	b
Exmouth	7.0	-	10	50	s
Falmouth	6.4	-	11	52	s
Fishguard	0.4	0.04	9	49	sh
Folkestone	5.9	0.14	9	48	s
Glasgow	X				
Guernsey	6.2	0.02	11	52	s
Hastings	6.7	0.01	9	48	s
Hayling I.	7.3	-	9	48	s
Hove	5.4	-	9	49	s
Hunstanton	2.6	0.02	7	45	s
Isle of Man	2.5	0.01	10	50	b
Jersey	7.2	0.01	11	52	s
Kinloss	-	0.01	6	43	c
Leeds	2.8	0.01	8	46	b
Lerwick	5.5	0.01	5	41	sh
Littlehmptn	5.7	0.01	8	46	s
London	7.1	0.01	9	48	s
Lowestoft	4.2	0.09	8	46	b
Manchester	2.9	-	8	46	s
Margate	1.4	0.02	8	46	b
Minehead	4.6	-	10	50	s
Morecambe	5.0	-	7	45	s
Newcastle	3.3	0.06	7	45	s
Newquay	3.4	0.01	11	52	c
Norwich	3.4	0.02	8	46	b
Oxford	6.0	-	8	46	s
Penzance	X	-	12	54	s
Prestatyn	X	-	10	50	s
Ross-o-wye	3.3	-	9	48	s
Sandown	6.7	0.01	9	48	s
Saunton Snd	3.1	-	X	X	b
Scarboro'	3.9	0.08	8	46	s
Shrewsbury	2.7	0.01	7	45	sh
Southend	6.8	0.04	8	46	b
Southsea	8.1	-	9	48	s
Stornoway	1.2	0.07	8	46	r
Swanage	7.5	-	9	48	s
Teignmouth	7.2	-	11	52	s
Tenby	1.4	0.01	11	52	du
Tiree	0.2	0.03	9	48	sh
Torquay	6.9	-	11	52	s
Tynemouth	-	0.03	7	45	b
Ventnor	8.0	0.01	9	48	s
West-s-mare	6.5	-	11	52	s
Weymouth	7.8	-	10	50	s

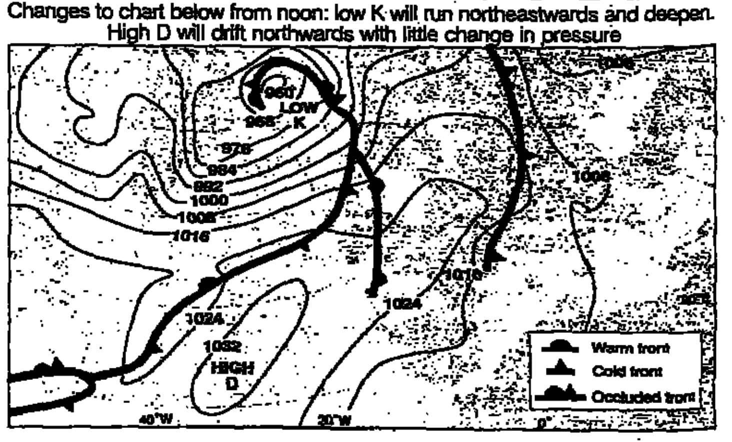
ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	24	75	s
Akrotiri	25	77	s
Alex'dria	26	79	s
Algiers	28	82	s
Amst'dm	9	48	c
Athens	18	64	c
B Aires	27	81	s
Bahrain	25	77	s
Bangkok	33	91	s
Barbados	29	84	r
Barcelona	19	66	c
Beirut	24	75	s
Belgrade	20	68	s
Berlin	11	52	r
Bermuda	22	72	c
Biarritz	13	55	s
Bord'x	14	57	s
Brussels	9	48	c
Budapst	17	63	[illegible]
Cairo	29	84	s
Cape Tn	X		
Ch'church	14	57	X
Chicago	-3	27	s
Cologne	11	52	c
Corfu	19	66	f
C'phagn	9	48	r
Dublin	7	45	s
Dubrovnik	15	59	r
Faro	18	64	c
Florence	22	72	f
Frankfurt	11	52	c
Funchal	17	63	f
Geneva	11	52	f
Gibraltar	16	61	r
Helsinki	1	34	f
Hong K	25	77	f
Innsbrck	17	63	f
Istanbul	15	59	s
Jeddah	34	93	s
Jo'burg	27	81	f
L Angels	22	72	s
L Palmas	27	81	s
Le Touquet	8	46	f
Lisbon	10	50	r
Locarno	12	54	r
Luxembg	9	48	c
Luxor	26	79	c
Madrid	9	48	c
Majorca	23	73	s
Malaga	17	63	f
Malta	23	73	s
Melb'rne	18	64	c
Mexico C	14	57	f
Miami	24	75	s
Milan	16	61	c
Montreal	1	34	s
Moscow	3	37	r
Munich	14	57	f
N Delhi	29	84	s
N York	6	43	s
Nairobi	19	66	f
Naples	22	72	f
Nice	15	59	f
Oslo	-1	30	c
Paris	9	48	r
Peking	6	43	s
Perth	26	79	f
Prague	9	48	c
Reykjavik	1	34	d
Rhodes	21	70	s
Rio de J	26	79	f
Riyadh	25	77	s
Rome	21	70	s
S Fr'isco	16	61	s
S Paulo	26	79	c
Salzburg	19	66	f
Santiago	28	82	s
Seoul	9	48	c
Sing'por	32	90	f
St'kholm	3	37	r
Strasb'rg	10	50	r
Sydney	23	73	s
Tangier	16	61	r
Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Tenerife	24	75	f
Tokyo	17	63	f
Toronto	-1	30	sn
Tunis	26	79	s
Valencia	16	61	s
Vanc'ver	12	54	f
Venice	18	64	f
Vienna	17	63	f
Warsaw	13	55	s
Wash'ton	X		
Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Zurich	13	55	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low K will run northeastwards and deepen. High D will drift northwards with little change in pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:30	7.1	3:54	7.2
Aberdeen	3:03	4.3	3:18	4.3
Avonmouth	8:57	13.2	9:19	13.0
Belfast	0:27	3.5	12:48	3.6
Cardiff	8:47	11.9	9:06	11.6
Devonport	7:33	5.5	7:55	5.3
Dover	0:15	6.8	12:38	6.8
Dublin (N Wall)	1:00	4.1	1:19	4.2
Falmouth	6:34	5.2	6:57	5.1
Greenock	2:02	3.5	2:23	3.7
Harwich	1:12	4.0	1:32	4.1
Holyhead	-	-	12:02	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	7:59	7.5	8:14	7.5
Ilfracombe	7:38	9.4	7:57	9.2
King's Lynn	7:56	7.0	8:16	7.0
Leith	4.17	5.7	4:35	5.6
Liverpool	0:40	9.3	1:03	9.4
Lowestoft	11:16	2.6	11:29	2.6
Margate	1:18	4.7	1:45	4.7
Milford Haven	7:53	7.1	8.15	6.9
Newquay	6:41	6.9	7:04	6.8
Oban	7:15	4.0	7:29	3.8
Penzance	6:12	5.6	6:32	5.4
Portland	8:26	2.2	8:46	2.0
Portsmouth	0:48	4.8	1:05	4.7
Shoreham	0:35	6.3	12:53	6.3
Southampton	0:08	4.7	12:27	4.7
Swansea	8:05	9.4	8:25	9.3
Tees	5:22	5.3	5.40	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	1:10	4.2	1:32	4.2

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall Airport, Orkney, and Redesdale, Northumberland, 0.43in; highest sunshine: Southsea, Hampshire, 8.1hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 14 NOVEMBER 1996

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	969
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	4,696
Cost to RNLI per day:	£173,000
Cost to taxpayer:	*£0*
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603